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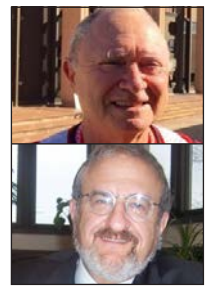

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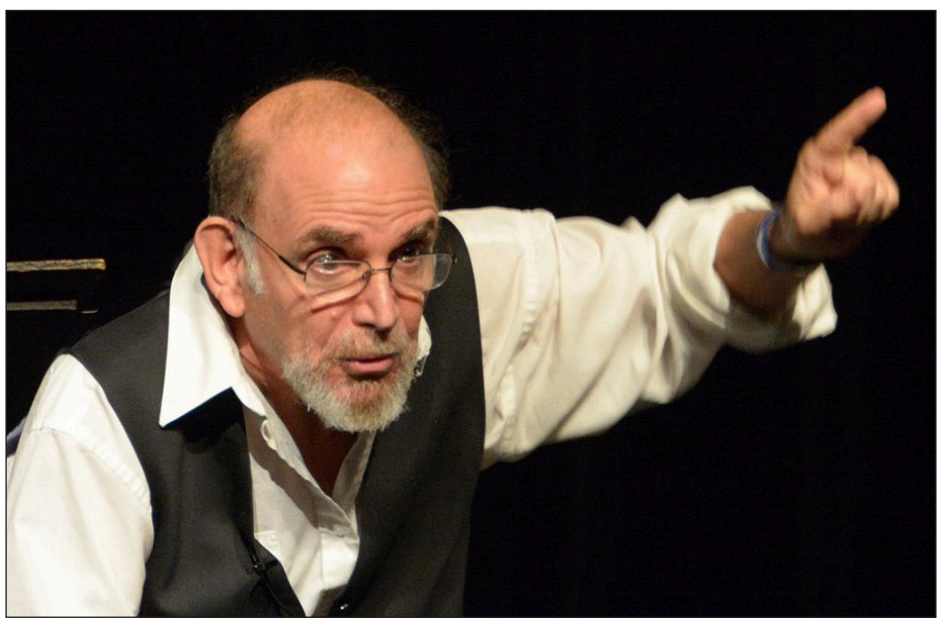
WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

May 2017 Iyar /Sivan 5777 Volume XVI Number 8 FREE

# Hank Greenspan to perform *Remnants* at AADL

*Tim Grimes, special to the* WJN

The Ann Arbor District Library will host a performance by playwright, Hank Greenspan of *Remnants: A One Man Play of Holocaust Survivors*, on Monday, May 8, 7–8:30 pm.



**Hank Greenspan**

Hank Greenspan's play *Remnants* is based on 20 years of the playwright's conversations with Holocaust survivors. The play reflects more than 40 years of conversation between Greenspan and a small group of Holocaust survivors and recreates memory as it erupts within sustained and deepening acquaintance, at moments of unusual clarity and candor.

Performed by the playwright (representing seven different people), each segment recreates moments in which survivors reflect not only on the destruction of the Holocaust, but also on their lives in the aftermath. *Remnants* was first produced for radio in 1992 and distributed to NPR stations across the United States. 2017–18 marks the 25th anniversary of the first production.

Greenspan has performed *Remnants* at over 300 venues throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as in Britain, Israel, and the Czech Republic, and the play has won numerous awards. Recent presentations include performances at New York's John Houseman Theater, the British Library (London), the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, DC), and the Magdeburg Attic Theatre in the former Theresienstadt concentration camp, a space used for performances during the Holocaust itself.

A discussion between the playwright and audience will follow the play.

Hank Greenspan is a psychologist, oral historian, and playwright at the University of Michigan and the author of *On Listening to Holocaust Survivors: Beyond Testimony and Reflections: Auschwitz, Memory, and a Life Recreated*, co-authored with Agi Rubin, a survivor with whom Greenspan had collaborated since 1980.

For more information on Tiny Expo or these related events, call the Library at (734) 327-8301 or visit the AADL website at aadl.org. ■

# Eileen Freed named Federation interim executive director

WJN *staff writer*

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor has named Eileen Freed as its interim executive director, effective May 8, 2017. Freed is well known in the community as an active member of Beth Israel Congregation, and as a board member (past and current) of many organizations, including Federation, Hebrew Day School, and Hadassah/Young Judaea. Freed and her husband, Dr. Gary Freed, have made Ann Arbor their home since 1998 and raised their three children in the community

Freed brings a wealth of professional experience to her new position. She served

**Eileen and Gary Freed**

as interim executive director of Federation from May 2007–May 2008, and from 2008–2013 as director of Israel and Overseas and Community Relations programming.

In addition to her formal experience, Freed brings a wonderful set of personal qualities that uniquely position for this position in the community — her passion, energy, vision, warmth, and enthusiasm.

At the Federation Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 24, the community will welcome Freed to her new position and offer its thanks to Federation Executive Director David Shtulman, who is stepping down after nine years of service to the community. ■

# Knight-Wallace director to talk on Fact vs Fiction: Journalism in Fascinating Times

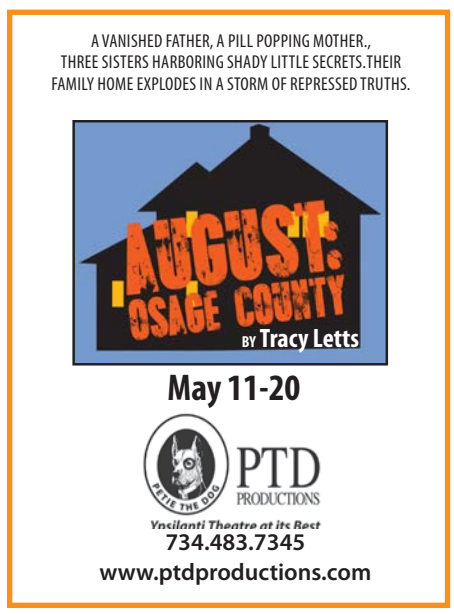
*Karen Freedland, special to the* WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will host Lynette Clemetson, director of the Knight Wallace Fellowship of Journalism at the University of Michigan, on May 18, at 7 p.m. She will present "Fact vs Fiction: Journalism in Fascinating Times," which will explore the challenges of traditional news media, which has been increasingly under attack as society is grappling with the notion of "alternate facts."

**Lynette Clemetson**

Clemetson is the Charles R. Eisendrath Director of Wallace House, home of the Knight-Wallace Fellowship for Journalists and the Livingston Awards at the University of Michigan. She is a Knight Wallace alumna and came to the directorship of the program from National Public Radio, where she served as senior director of Strategy and Content Initiatives, guiding projects across broadcast, digital and events. Clemetson spent several years as a magazine and newspaper reporter for *Newsweek* and *The New York Times* before moving into media strategy and leadership. She has a passionate interest in sustaining journalism in a variety of forms and supporting journalists in the pursuit of their craft.

Instrumental in establishing a relationship with the Knight Wallace Fellowship has been Prudence Rosenthal, current president of the JCC. Rosenthal has enlisted the Knight Wallace Fellowship for an ongoing speaker's series that began in 2016. Being able to host journalism and media professionals has given the community a closer look at what it is like to be a journalist today. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Karen Freedland, director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education, at (734) 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. ■




# Frankel Center for Judaic Studies celebrates spring graduates

*Kelsey Robinette, special to the* WJN

The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies has seven Judaic Studies majors, eight minors, and two graduate certificates walking in University of Michigan's spring commencement on April 29. Five of the graduates will go on to graduate school, while others have already secured employment or are still considering their options.

Besides their focus in Judaic Studies, students studied subjects including cognitive science, history, and psychology. Rachel Klein of Ferndale, who majored in Judaic Studies and International Studies, remarked, "Judaic Studies gave me skills to think critically about multiple areas in my life. Although I was learning about specific areas in Judaism, Jewish history, etc., these skills can be applied to other areas in my life." Klein has been hired as a community organizer for Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES), which trains religious leaders to advocate for social justice in Metro Detroit.

**Rachel Klein**

Sharo Costa, who is also graduating with a major in Judaic Studies, is planning on attending graduate school to study international and comparative education. Costa recalled, "Deciding to become a Judaic Studies major has been the most fulfilling decision I've made during my time at Michigan — everyday, I am intellectually challenged by my professors and peers, and cherished by the many friends I've come to know." Costa, who was born in Kanyakumari, India, and lived in Saudi Arabia before coming to the United States, added, "I have been able to learn so much about a country whose narrative is often left out in curricula in the Middle East, and the classes I've taken have greatly expanded my perspective."

**Sharo Costa**

Each year the Frankel Center honors a graduate with the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. The students who receive this award must be graduating with at least a 3.8 GPA and are recommended by Judaic Studies faculty members. This April the award will be presented to Seif-Eldeen Basheer Saqallah of West Bloomfield. In endorsement of Saqallah, Devi Mays, assistant professor of Judaic Studies, commented, "Seif has been the most engaged student I've had at the University of Michigan, regularly coming in to my office hours to discuss class material in greater depth, actively contributing to classroom discussions in an informed and passionate way. His presence in class and in office hours was always stimulating, and the written material that he produced was consistently the highest quality in the class, both in terms of writing and in terms of his analytical abilities." Saqallah will be attending University of Michigan Law School this fall. ■

**Seif-Eldeen Basheer Saqallah**

# Ann Arbor ORT Spring Dinner, June 5

*Joan Levitt, special to the* WJN

The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will hold its annual Spring Dinner on Monday, June 5. The dinner will be at held 6:30 p.m., at Weber's Inn (3050 Jackson Road).

Deborah Dash Moore, the Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History and Judaic Studies and former director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, will be the guest speaker. Moore has devoted her career to exploring American Jewish history, and has written many articles and books. She is also a member of the Jewish Women's Archive Academic Advisory Council.

**Ruth Petit, Jayne Reiss and Irene Adler at the 2016 ORT Fall Brunch at the home of Pat McCune**

The dinner will provide ORT members and prospective members the opportunity to honor the chapter's generous donors. Donors' contributions to ORT America are essential for ORT's programs to serve the needs of 300,000 students annually in many countries throughout the world.

ORT works to offer skills and training to some of the world's most impoverished communities. With the assistance of its supporters, ORT helps communities meet the demands of a competitive job landscape — now and in the future — through its global network of educational institutions that deliver state-of-the-art education in technology, science and more.

The three-course dinner, offering a choice of three entrees, will cost $45 per person. Rides to the dinner will be available to those who need them. For more information or to RSVP, contact Babette Levy Daskin at babette.r.levy@gmail.com by May 26. ■

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
voice: 734/971-1800
e-mail: WJN.editor@gmail.com
www.washtenawjewishnews.org

**Editor and Publisher**
Susan Kravitz Ayer

**Calendar Editor**
Claire Sandler

**Advertising Manager**
Gordon White

**Design and Layout**
Dennis Platte

**Staff Writers**
Mary Bilyeu, Lisa Carolin, Sandor Slomovits, Rochel Urist

**Contributing Writers**
Laurie Cohen, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Karen Freedland, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Max Glick, Tim Grimes, Rachael Hoffenblum, Joan Levitt, SooJi Min, Kelsey Robinette, Rachel Saslove, Clara Silver, Elliot Sorkin, Bev Warshai

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**Publication date: May 28**
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

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# Spring into Lunch and Learn

*Rachael Hoffenblum, special to the* WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Thursday Lunch and Learn program offers a delicious nut-free vegetarian meal prepared by local caterer, Karan Balmer, great company, and the opportunity to learn about local non-profit organizations and events.

Elvisfest

Barry Schuman

TheraPaws

On May 4, Mary Decker, director for Ypsilanti's Elvisfest, will present on Michigan's largest Elvis celebration. On May 18, Barry Schumer, LMSW, will discuss psychological developmental stages and how they can be used to find happiness at any age. TheraPaws therapy dog-owner teams will return for their bi-monthly visit on May 25.

Lunch is served each Thursday at noon and requires advance reservations. Lunch is $5.50 per person or $3 per person over 60. Reserve lunch up to one day in advance by calling (734) 971-0990 or by visiting jccannarbor.org. A monthly menu is available on the website for download. Lunch is followed by presentations at 1 p.m.; all presentations are offered free of charge and are open to the public. To learn more about Thursday Lunch and Learn or to RSVP, contact Rachael Hoffenblum, adult program coordinator, at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990. ■

# First mother-daughter showing at JCC's Amster Gallery

*Karen Freedland, special to the* WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Amster Gallery will host its first mother-daughter art exhibition, "Pencil and Palette," featuring the drawings of Joanna Schuman, daughter, and the paintings of Mary Schuman, mother. Throughout Joanna's childhood, Mary and Joanna shared their love of art and it has always been a bond between them.

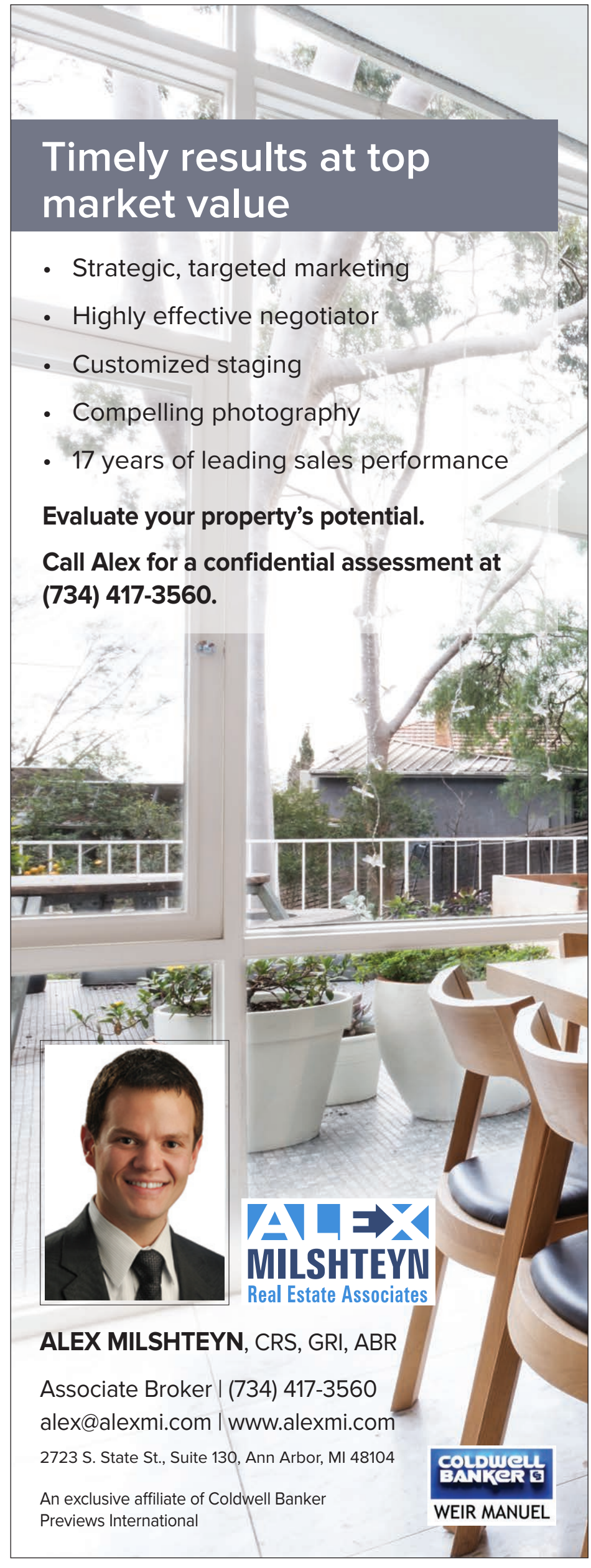
Joanna, known in the art world as Jona Shoe, is a freelance illustrator and designer whose drawings have been featured in online publications, professional journals and small businesses. Her drawings are best described as sweet and nostalgic with a hint of silly. She also specializes in surface pattern designs. A resident of Seattle, Jona is lead teacher at Seattle ReCreative, a creative reuse shop, where she teaches art to all ages. In addition, she teaches enrichment art to children at public schools and art studios in the Seattle area. Jona has a BFA in film, photography, and art, and a MA in art therapy. Her work is also displayed on her website jonashoe.com.

Mary has had a lifelong love of art. In her youth, she took classes at the Minneapolis Art Institute, Walker Art Center, and Minneapolis College of Art. Mary has been painting since 2004, taking classes with her mentor, artist Leslie Masters. Inspired by her love of color, line, and shape, Mary's paintings are abstract and imaginative.

Work by Mary Schuman

Work by Joanna Schuman

The idea for this mother-daughter exhibition was conceived by the J's art committee member, Bobbie Levine. The Schumans' work will be on display June 4 through August 1. The opening reception with the artists will be held Sunday, June 4, from 2–4 p.m. For more information on the Amster Gallery or the exhibition, contact Karen Freedland, director of Jewish cultural arts and education, at (734) 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. ■

# This month at Beth Israel Congregation

*Elliot Sorkin, special to the* WJN

### *Shabbat Limmud*

**Saturday, May 6 and 20, 9 a.m.**

Adults are invited for Torah study over coffee and cake. The discussions, led by Rabbi Dobrusin, are informal, lively and participatory. The study begins with traditional texts and participants add their own thoughts on the Torah, Haftarah portion of the week, or other traditional texts.

### *Lunch & Learn Series*

**Wednesdays, May 3, 10. 17 and 24, noon–1:15 p.m.**
**Garfunkel Schteingart Activities Center (2010 Washtenaw)**

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal lead informal discussions on current topics. Participants are invited to bring a dairy lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

### *Shavuot at Beth Israel*

**Tuesday May 30 in the evening, Tikkum Leil Shavuot**
**Wednesday and Thursday, May 31 and June 1, morning service at 9:30 a.m.**

Beth Israel's celebration of Shavuot includes study sessions (Tikkun Leil Shavuot) on Tuesday evening, with a Maariv service at 9:30 p.m. and a delicious cheesecake oneg. For more information about the Tikkun, visit Beth Israel's website.

Shavuot, the "Feast of Weeks," is celebrated seven weeks after Passover. Since the counting of this period begins on the second evening of Passover, Shavuot takes place exactly 50 days after the first seder. It marks both the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai and the time of the ancient grain harvest festival. The book of Ruth is chanted during this holiday at Beth Israel on the first day of the holiday). Its story takes place during a barley harvest and Ruth's assumption of Naomi's religion is said to reflect the Israelites' acceptance of the Torah at Sinai. Shavuot is one of the holidays on which both Hallel, the Psalms of Praise, is sung and Yizkor, the memorial service, is observed. Yizkor takes place on Thursday, June 1 at approximately 11 a.m.

### *"Our Big Bad Bat/Bat Mitzvah Party: A Night to Remember"*

**Sunday, June 4, 6–10 p.m.**

Beth Israel's yearly fundraiser recreates a faux bar/bat mitzvah party, complete with a fake bar mitzvah boy, a fake bat mitzvah girl, and fake family members who will play their roles the entire evening. The event includes a reception line with hors d'oeuvres, a skit poking gentle jabs at this typical Jewish celebratory event, a dinner, and dancing to music provided by Star Trax.

The Fundraiser Event Committee includes Bob Carbeck, Carol Finerman, Steve and Joyce Gerber, Susan Gross, Michele Leshan, Elaine Margolis, Elliot Sorkin, and Roberta Tankanow. The scriptwriting committee includes Rochel Urist, Lonnie Sussman, Keith Alexander, Dennie Carbeck, Monica Schteingart, and Elaine Margolis.

Call the Beth Israel office if you are interested in receiving a "bar/bat mitzvah invitation" to this event.

### *T-Shirt and Baseball Cap Shabbat*

**Saturday, June 3, 9:30 a.m.**

Members and guests are asked to wear their favorite T Shirt (university/camp/vacation spot) and their favorite baseball cap for this relaxing Shabbat service. Coordinated T-shirt/Baseball cap outfits receive extra credit (in the Book of Informal Shabbat Services). During the service the Beth Israel Softball Team will be honored, wishing them luck in the upcoming season. The service concludes with a Hot Dog and Veggie Dog Kiddush. ■

# Temple Beth Emeth events in May

*SooJi Minn, special to the* WJN

### *A Weekend of Music and Study with Artist in Residence Dan Nichols*

**Shabbat Service, Friday, May 12, TBE 7:30 p.m.**
**Torah Study, Saturday, May 13, 8:50 a.m.**
**Shabbat Service, Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.**
**God in Secular Music, Saturday, May 13, 1 p.m.**
**Dan Nichols Concert, Saturday, May 13, 6 p.m.**

Advance tickets for the Dan Nichols concert are $8/person. Kids 6 and under are free. Purchase in advance at http://bit.ly.DanNicholsTBEConcert. Tickets are also available at the door for $10/person. Learn more about Dan Nichols at www.dannicholsmusic.com. Call TBE at (734) 665-4744 for more information.

### *Families with Young Children (FYC): Tot Shabbat Service*

**Fridays, May 5, 12 and 19, 5:45 p.m., TBE Sanctuary**
**Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat Services with Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut, 5:45 p.m. Dinner for Tot Shabbat, 6:15 p.m. Shira Service, 6:45 p.m.**

The service will include all of your favorite songs, led by TBE's tot team, Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston.

Join in for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately following the short service. Dinner is $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

### *Shabbat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together for 1–5 grades*

**Fridays, May 5, 12 and 19, 5:45 p.m.**

TBE's new series of interactive events for children in first through fifth grades will take place parallel to Tot Shabbat. Rotating activities will include Shabbat themed, crafts, yoga, and an age-specific service lead by Rabbi Josh. The event is sponsored by the Year of Torah Fund.

### *Shabbat Achat | One Shabbat*

**Friday, May, 26, TBE Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.**
**Dinner for Shabbat Achat, 6 p.m.**

Don't miss out Shabbat Achat service for the entire community, led by Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut. Shabbat Achat, held on the fourth Friday of each month. Join in for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately preceding the new service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office. Note the 6:30 p.m. start time for services on Shabbat Achat.

### *Shabbat Torah Study*

**Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, , 8:50 a.m., Adult Lounge**

Join Rabbi Whinston for text study and discussion of the week's Torah Portion.

### *Chapel Service*

**Saturday, May 13, TBE Chapel, 10 a.m.**

Join Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut for a short Shabbat morning service in the TBE Chapel.

### *Shalom Gever/Jewish Karate*

**Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 4 p.m.**
**Fridays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 4 p.m.**

Health, Healing and Self-Defense: Try out this unique martial arts instruction including lessons in how to live a healthy lifestyle, be energetic, do well in school and learn anti-bullying self-defense. Twelve-week semesters for belt advancement are offered with drop-in when schedules permit. Enrollment is open for students and adults. Shalom Gever is taught by Rabbi Peter Gluck, 5th Degree Black Belt and martial arts instructor for 19 years. Contact the Temple Beth Emeth office at (734) 665-4744 or Rabbi Gluck at info@shalomgever.org, for more registration information.

### *Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit*

**Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 1:30 p.m., TBE Chapel.**

For practitioners of all levels. Intention and instruction are followed by a 30-minute silent meditation, facilitated by SooJi Min, Judy Freedman, and Quyen Epstein-Ngo. SooJi Min is TBE's executive director. She completed a 16-month mindfulness teacher-training program sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and the Awakened Heart Project. Freedman has been practicing meditation for over 20 years. She attended a three-year training in Jewish Meditation sponsored by the Philips Foundation at Chochmat ha Lev. Epstein-Ngo is a therapist who holds a joint doctoral degree in clinical psychology and women's studies. One of the areas she specializes in is working with adolescents, adults, and couples on issues of faith and spirituality. Contact SooJi Min with questions at (734) 665-4744.

### *Men's Torah Study*

**Monday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.**

A men's Torah discussion group will be led monthly by Rabbi Whinston on the 4th Monday. This year the group is taking a closer look at the Talmud. Participants will find their way as men by wrestling with text. For more information, contact Bill Parkus at parkus@comcast.net.

### *Woman's Torah Study*

**Mondays, May 8 and 22, 7 p.m.**

An in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Cantor Regina Hayut. The group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary to participate in the discussion. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org.

### *WTBE Fiber Arts Group*

**Thursdays, May 11 and 25, 7–9 p.m.**

Anyone interested in Fiber Arts (knitting, crocheting, and crafts) is welcome. Meet new people and have fun with the Women of TBE. This group will be contributing to the Israeli Peace quilt. All materials for the project are provided by WTBE. Contact Bobbi Heilveil for details at (734) 276-5741 or bobbiheilveil@gmail.com.

### *WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group*

**Tuesday, May 30, 12:30–2 p.m., TBE Library.**

This group will be reading *On the Shore* by Anna Epstein for the May meeting.

WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group is sponsored by the Women of TBE. Contact Danielle Goldberg (dgoldberg@templebethemeth.org) for more information.

### *Weekly Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation*

**Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2:30–3:30 p.m., TBE Family Room next to Sanctuary.**
**Thursday, May 18, 2:30-3:30 p.m., TBE Family Room next to Sanctuary**

Yin yoga is a slow-paced style of yoga with postures, or *asanas*, that are held for long periods of time. Sessions are led by SooJi Min. Bring a yoga mat, blanket, props if needed, water and wear comfortable clothing. Contact SooJi Min at sjmin@templebethemeth.org with questions.

### *WTBE Trinkets &and Treasures*

**Sunday, May 21, TBE Social Hall, 2–9 p.m.**

Temple Beth Emeth Sisterhood is bringing back, by popular demand, the annual Trinkets and Treasures—A Community Estate Sale. Shop, recycle, and fundraise in style. Attendees will find a collection of much loved, gently used and new items, specifically donated for this event. Entry is free.

### *Spirituality Book Club 2016-17*

**Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.**
**Thursday, May 18, 12:30 p.m.**

Led by Annie Rose, TBE's cantor emerita. Join in for the new season of TBE's Spirituality Book Club. This year particpants will be reading three books over the course of nine months. Feel free to come to Tuesday night sessions or Thursday afternoon sessions. Registration is not required, but it is helpful to those planning to know how many people may come: cantorannie@gmail.com.

The discussion for May will be a continuation of *The Journey Home: Discovering the Deep Spiritual Wisdom of Jewish Tradition*, by Lawrence Hoffman.

### *Shavuot Yizkor Service & Luncheon*

**Wednesday, May 31, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., TBE Social Hall.**

All are welcome at the Shavuot Yizkor Service, when those who have passed since last Shavuot will be remembered. A light lunch follows the service. RSVP to Whitney Liberty at wliberty@templebethemeth.org.

*Continued on page 6*

130th Anniversary
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Sunday, May 7 • 4:00 p.m.
Hill Auditorium

Rossini *Semiramide Overture*
Verdi *Opera Choruses* from *Aïda*, *Traviata, Nabucco,* and *Il Trovatore*
Tchaikovsky *Capriccio Italien*
Respighi *Pines of Rome*

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# The obstacles that get in the way

*Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the* WJN

In my recently published book, I tell the complicated story of how I managed to go to the sixth game of the 1975 World Series at Boston's Fenway Park.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

As a passionate Red Sox fan, I entered the ticket lottery and, against great odds, actually received two tickets in the mail.

However, there was a slight problem. The tickets I received were for a game to be played on Shabbat and I had recently begun to observe Shabbat more traditionally. This was quite a dilemma to face.

I decided to sell the tickets to a friend with the understanding that if the game happened to be postponed, he would sell them back to me at the same price.

Sure enough, the game was postponed for three days and I bought the tickets back and went with my cousin to what turned out to be one of the most memorable World Series games in history.

There is more to the story, but I'll stop here and quickly explain that I absolutely believe that the postponement of that game was a complete coincidence and had nothing to do with my decision to sell my tickets rather than violate the laws of Shabbat. I do not believe that God was looking down and smiling and then caused a three day rainstorm in Boston on my behalf. I do not believe that some force in the universe decided to repay my dedication with a gift. It was all just good fortune.

In Parashat Bechukotai, the last Torah portion in the book of Leviticus, God promises to make "your rain come in its season" as a reward for observing the commandments. This is one of the many difficult sections in the Torah that speak of reward and punishment and many of us, including this writer, do not accept the idea that an individual's observance of the commandments insures us good fortune. But, for the moment, I don't want to engage in that theological argument. Instead, I want to share a commentary on this verse that I find fascinating.

A commentary states that when the Torah says that God will give you your rain in its season, it means that God will make it rain on Friday evening when everyone is at home observing Shabbat and no work was being done in the field because of Shabbat restrictions.

I find that to be a charming commentary, but it is also very instructive. Note that the commentary doesn't say that God would make it rain so that one would find it easier to stay home on Shabbat, rather that God would make it rain *if* one stays home and observes Shabbat. There is a difference between the two. The commentary expresses the idea that if people stayed home and observed Shabbat, God would make it rain, not that the rain would come as an incentive to stay home and observe Shabbat.

This is not an insignificant difference. In this case, the reward comes after we have committed ourselves to the commandments, not as a way to make it easier for us to observe.

Now, let me repeat that I do not believe that we are rewarded with rain or anything else if we observe the commandments, but there is a message here that is important.

Observing the commandments or fulfilling any responsibility or obligation is not always easy. We can not expect the universe to bow to our needs to make it easier for us to do what we know is right and sometimes the greatest reward comes when we defy the realities of the world that could prevent us from fulfilling our responsibilities and rise above those realities. When we do that, we might find ourselves rewarded with a great feeling of satisfaction.

Thirty-five years ago, I spent part of Pesach in the former Soviet Union and my rabbinical school colleague and I attended services in the synagogue on the first day of the holiday in the city of Kishinev, now Chisinau, Moldova. It was not easy. It was, quite frankly, frightening. There were KGB agents and police standing outside and they were taking pictures and staring at us with menacing looks. But, a man whom we had just met the night before and whom we accompanied to shul told us to walk in with our heads held high. It was a harrowing experience, but once inside, I forgot the fear at least for a few moments, and sang with some extra passion. It was a tremendously moving experience and one I often look back on with a sense of pride and satisfaction.

But, we only had to do that once. So, we asked our new friends how they could do this every week. They simply told me that nothing would prevent them from going to shul.

We can not expect that the things that are important to us will always come easily. Sometimes, we get lucky and the rain postpones the ball game. More often, though, we have to make a decision as to what is important to us and do what we need to do despite the obstacles that stand in the way.

When we do that, we may be rewarded in the truest sense of the word. ■

# Counting the Omer

*Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the* WJN

In the seven weeks from Passover to Shavuot (the holiday of the receiving of the Torah) we count each day. In Leviticus 23:16, the Torah tells us that after the first day of Passover one should count a complete seven weeks, "… And you shall count fifty days." So there seems to be a contradiction here. First, the Torah says it should be seven weeks. Seven weeks is 49 days. During this period called the "Counting of the Omer" we actually count only 49 days not 50 — so why does the Torah tell us to count 50 when in fact we don't? Another question to be understood is in the way we count these days, Why is it that we do not use the typical manner of counting days such as; first day, second day, third day, etc. Instead, we count; day one, day two, day three, etc.?

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

To answer these questions regarding the particular way of counting the days from Passover to Shavuot we have to go back to the time when "Counting of the Omer" — also known as — "Counting the Sefira" came into practice. This practice started when the Jewish people left Egypt. The rabbis tell us that the Jewish people were told as they left Egypt that in 49 days they would receive the Ten Commandments — the Torah. They were very excited about it and every day they would count one more day closer to receiving the Torah. On a deeper level it wasn't only counting but something else was taking place at the same time. According to the mystical interpretations, as a result of the Jewish people being subjugated to the Egyptians for so many years, it unfortunately caused them to sink into the degraded culture and unclean spiritual atmosphere of Egypt. The Torah would say many times that Egypt was the abomination of the Earth, meaning by this that the Jewish people descended into the lowest levels of spiritual uncleanliness. It is

*Why does the Torah tell us to count 50 when in fact we don't?*

written in Kabbalistic sources that there are only 49 levels of spiritual uncleanliness from which a soul can still be redeemed through repentance. Unfortunately, the Jewish people, at that time, had sunk to the forty-ninth level. So when they were about to leave Egypt they were at a very low spiritual level. At this low level they were not fit to receive something as exalted as the Torah. So by counting 49 days, each day they would purify and elevate themselves upward through these 49 gates, or levels, of spiritual uncleanliness to higher and higher levels of holiness. Eventually, they worked their way into the forty-ninth level of holiness during the 49 days of counting. When they reached the forty-ninth level of holiness they were ready to receive the Torah.

This concept was not only applied to the Exodus from Egypt. Our mystical traditions tell us that it is repeated every year. In the days between Passover and Shavuot one has to climb the ladder of the 49 levels of holiness. That is why the period is called "Counting the Sefira" — Sefira means "to shine." So each day from Passover to Shavuot we "shine" a little more by spiritually refining ourselves. This helps us to be worthy vessels for receiving the holiness of the Torah.

This is the reason why, when we count the Sefira, we say "day one, day two, etc." It is to indicate that we have completed a level of the forty-nine and have passed through that gate of holiness. Through the counting of the 49 days, we can reach the forty-ninth gate of holiness.

Now we can answer the first question regarding why the Torah says there are 49 days to count levels of holiness but we are told to count 50 days. As we are limited human beings, we are limited in how far we can reach in our service to God. We can work on ourselves and elevate ourselves forty-nine levels, but that is as far as we can go on our own. We are told to count 49 days because the forty-ninth level is our limit as physical human beings. But once we reach the forty-ninth level on our own, God gives us a gift and elevates us to the fiftieth level as if we had counted and earned it on our own. This is why the Torah says to count to 50 days — because we trust in God's mercy and kindness and is confident that if we do our part as best we can, God will provide us with whatever else we need. As the old Jewish saying goes, "If we do our best, God will do the rest." This fiftieth day represents the great revelation at Mt. Sinai which was a gift from God to the Jewish people.

So, God willing, we should prepare ourselves again this year during the 49 days from Passover to Shavuot to once again receive the Torah and to re-affirm our commitment to Torah so that God will give us the beautiful gift of the revelation from Heaven of the fiftieth level that can only be reached after we have done our part. As the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe would wish everyone before Shavuot that "We should all be meritorious to receive the Torah with joy and inner meaning." ■

*TBE events, continued from page 4*

### TBE's R&R Group Outing to the Purple Rose Theater

**Thursday, May 4**

Dinner at the Common Grill, 6 p.m. *Vino Veritas* Viewing, 8 p.m.

The Purple Rose tickets will be $23 each. Theater reservations must be made by April 15. The Purple Rose Theater is located in Chelsea, Michigan. Contact Danielle Goldberg at dgoldberg@templebethemeth.org with questions or to RSVP.

### Nachamu – Shiva Minyan Leader Training

**Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., TBE**

One of the greatest *mitzvot* in Jewish practice is comforting the mourner. Learn from Cantor Hayut the various skills needed to lead a shiva minyan in this 2-hour long class session. This class will address the specific aspects of the service. All participants will receive take home materials for future reference. Contact Cantor Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org for more information.

### Group Supported Spiritual Exploration

**Monday, May 15, 6:10 p.m., TBE**

Meet monthly with an intimate group dedicated to each other's spiritual growth. Cultivate person connections with whatever you consider your higher guidance. Participants will invoke blessing and offer each other blessings, engage in sharing doubts and challenges. The group then practices holy questioning and listening. Guided by a gently structured and confidential process, they focus in prayerful introspection and respectful reflection to arrive at deep individual insight. Contact Linda Greene at lingreene@gmail.com with questions. ■

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## EXPO

**Saturday, May 13**
**8:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College

- Visit with Exhibitors
- Attend Educational Workshops
- Health screenings, immunizations, & assessments

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# Join Us

## for a Concert to Benefit JFS' Refugee Resettlement Program

June 11, 2017 • 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.

**Towsley Auditorium**
Morris Lawrence Building at WCC
4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48105

Featuring a Refugee Photovoice Exhibit, an Interfaith Concert Celebration with Performances by Local Congregations & Musical Groups, and an Ann Arbor Artists Bazaar.

Refreshments by Amanda's Kitchen.

**Event co-chairs:**
Patty Benson and Robby Griswold

**Musical Directors:**
Cantor Regina Hayut and Shawn McDonald

**Photovoice Facilitators:**
Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson and Shrina Eadeh

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

JUNE 11, 2017

To purchase tickets visit www.jfsannarbor.org/festival-of-lights, contact Laurie Cohen at lcohen@jfsannarbor.org or call 734-769-0209 ext.353

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# Celebrate ISRAEL 2017

**Sunday, May 21, 2017**
**11 am – 2 pm**

**ALL EVENTS HELD AT:**
Jewish Community Center
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

## Join Us at the Movies – Commemorate Yom Haatzmaut

*Hosted by Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor*

**Monday, May 1 • 7:30-9:00 pm**

Featuring comedic film, *Atomic Falafel* – Kosher popcorn and snacks will be available for purchase.

*RSVP to jewishannarbor.org/CI2017movie or Cindy Adams at cindy@jewishannarbor.org or at 734-677-0100 ext 245 (PLEASE NOTE: this movie is best suited for adults).*

## Celebrate Israel Family Festival

RAIN or SHINE!

*Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor & Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor*

**Sunday, May 21 • 11:00 am-2:00 pm**

Petting Zoo • Mini Obstacle Course
Live Music • Kid's Arts & Crafts
Nahalal Booth • Israeli Dancing • Krav Maga

$10/Household or $5/Individual

*RSVP to www.jewishannarbor.org/CI2017 or Cindy Adams at 734-677-0100 ext 245*

# Jewish Family Services

## JFS to hold Festival of Lights fundraiser

*Laurie Cohen, special to the* WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County will host its Festival of Lights, a community-wide, multi-media benefit concert, art bazaar and refugee photo exhibit, on Sunday, June 11, to support its refugee resettlement program. The event is co-chaired by Robby Griswold, Community Partnerships coordinator and Diversity and Inclusion chair at Zingerman's, and recent JFS board member and resettlement volunteer Patty Benson.

Over the past year and a half, JFS has teamed with several local congregations in an interfaith, grassroots effort to welcome refugees to Washtenaw County. Dubbed the Welcome Wagon initiative, JFS has joined Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Westminster Presbyterian Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, First Congregational Church, Blue Ocean Faith, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, the Zen Buddhist Temple, the University of Michigan's Refugee Assistance Program, Washtenaw Refugee Welcome and other congregations and community groups to take on numerous volunteer responsibilities involved in resettling refugees in Washtenaw County. The idea for a Festival of Lights fundraiser, which honors the many faith traditions, grew organically from this interfaith effort.

"We are inspired and encouraged to see the community come together in this way to welcome the stranger," says JFS Executive Director Anya Abramzon. "The Festival of Lights will be a celebration of that work, and a meaningful acknowledgment of the many aspects of the refugee experience."

The Festival of Lights will be held at Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College (4800 E. Huron, Ypsilanti), and will run from 3–5:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 11. From 3–4 p.m., guests will enjoy catering from Amanda's Kitchen, and explore a professionally mounted Photovoice project. Co-facilitated by JFS' Resettlement Director Shrina Eadah and social worker Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, Ph.D., Photovoice is a photography project that JFS' refugee clients will take on as a means to share and reflect on their experience with the wider community.

The main portion of the Festival of Lights will be a concert featuring musical numbers from a variety of local congregations and community groups that are involved in the resettlement effort. JFS is grateful to have Shawn McDonald, musical director at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Regina Hayut, cantor at Temple Beth Emeth, serving as musical directors. McDonald and Hayut are organizing the concert, a major undertaking involving many different community choirs and artists, and will plan one group musical number for the end of the concert so that everyone in attendance may participate.

"We anticipate that this will be a powerful and memorable experience for attendees, combining music and a video presentation that demonstrates the strength and resilience of refugees," said co-Chair Patty Benson. "It will be a unique way to share the refugee's journey with the entire community."

Tickets to attend Festival of Lights are available for a $20 suggested donation, with a sliding scale available. For more information or to register online, visit www.jfsannarbor.org or call Laurie Cohen at (734) 769-0209. ■

## *JFS Kids Care Fair*

Over 200 people attended the Kids Care Fair at the end of March. Sponsored by Jewish Family Services, young and old enjoyed a variety of service activities. There were many stations for kids to enjoy from The American Red Cross's disaster relief simulator to a build-your-own yogurt parfait from Amanda's Kitchen.

1. **"Build-your-own yogurt parfaits from Amanda's kitchen"**
2. **"Grow your plants, Grow your earth" The YMCA helped kids plant seeds**
3. **Therapaws fosters the human-animal bond in educational settings**
4. **Kids had fun connecting the community dots at United Way's activity table**
5. **JFS's food pantry helps kids identify foods that are healthy for them**

# Teens

## Nahalal, a home in Israel for local teens

*Max Glick, special to the* WJN

Early on Thursday, March 30, a group of nine local high school students departed to spend their Spring Break on the Ann Arbor-Nahalal Student Exchange program. The Exchange program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and since it began in 2010, over 110 local teens have participated.

**Teens resting after a long hike through the hills surrounding Nahalal**

**Jesse R., Zach W., and Rachel S. planting a tree in the Ann Arbor Grove located in Nahalal**

Teens spent a majority of their time in our sister city, Moshav Nahalal, building strong bonds with Israeli teenagers. Over the next week, the two groups become inseparable. As explained by Jesse R., a local teen: "Connecting with the Israeli teens was awesome but getting to better know the other Ann Arbor Jewish teens was a surprising experience."

Nahalal is primarily an agricultural community with a rich history dating back to its founding in 1921. Participants toured interesting sites throughout the Jezreel Valley with additional day trips to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. For many of the teens, this was their first trip to Israel.

Other trip highlights included: rock climbing in Ramat Yishay, viewing the Mediterranean Sea from the highest point in Jaffa, exploring the fields of Nahalal, shopping in Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter, and so much more. During their visit to Tel Aviv, teens were surprised to learn that the University of Michigan was already 92 years old when Tel Aviv was founded in 1909.

Yakirah M. was thrilled to describe her first visit to Israel. "This was the best experience of my life! It is the most beautiful place I have ever seen and the people of Nahalal were so kind and welcoming. I spent only eight days with the teens there and by the end of the trip, I felt like I had known them my entire life."

Later this year, the teens from Nahalal will visit Ann Arbor for the second part of the exchange program. Israeli teens will be hosted in the homes of local families for a week and spend time touring the greater Ann Arbor community. For more information about having your teen join the 2018 Student Exchange trip, visit: www.jewishannarbor.org/studentexchange. ■

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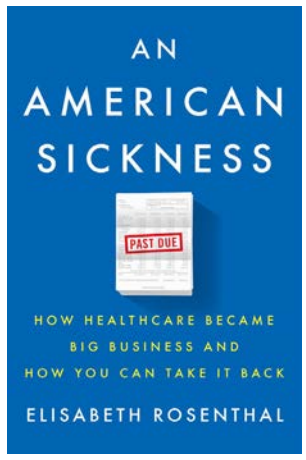
# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## *REMNANTS*

**A ONE-MAN PLAY PERFORMED BY PLAYWRIGHT HENRY GREENSPAN**

**MONDAY, MAY 8 • 7-8:30 PM**

Henry Greenspan's play *Remnants* is based on twenty years of the playwright's conversations with Holocaust survivors and recreates memory as it erupts within sustained and deepening acquaintance, at moments of unusual clarity and candor.




## DR. ELISABETH ROSENTHAL DISCUSSES HER BOOK ***AN AMERICAN SICKNESS: HOW AMERICAN HEALTHCARE BECAME BIG BUSINESS AND HOW YOU CAN TAKE IT BACK***

**MONDAY, MAY 15 • 7-8:30 PM**

Award-winning *New York Times* reporter Dr. Elisabeth Rosenthal reveals the dangerous, expensive, and dysfunctional American healthcare system, and tells us exactly what we can do to solve its myriad problems. *This event includes a book signing and books will be for sale, courtesy of Nicola's Books.*

*These events take place at the Downtown Library Multi-purpose Room.*

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# Reading Torah: a multi-sensory experience

*by Bev Warshai*

An effective approach to learning is for knowledge to be absorbed using the whole body—for learning to come about through an experience that makes connections in our brain by using as many senses as possible.

In music class, for example, Hebrew Day School students rely on multiple senses as they sing and use rhythm instruments at the same time. Israeli songs are especially fun because so many have complete dances to go with them. These present opportunities for students to use their entire body to feel and express the song. This is true of some songs in the United States, but it is much more common in Israel. Indeed, the fusion of song and dance has become an enduring part of Israeli culture. There's something especially rewarding about teaching students a song and its accompanying dance. Anyone who is willing to take the risk and give it a try predictably ends up with a huge smile on his or her face. It's like magic.

There is another example of this sort of integrated learning experience that occurs weekly at HDS. It's part of a special magic that takes place in the Upper El during *T'fillot* on Thursday mornings. On all other weekdays, a group of students leads the prayer service together. This enables them to become comfortable in front of the congregation. But on Thursdays it's different, for on that day, we have a Torah service. Through it, the words of Torah jump off the page and the students are immersed in another integrated learning experience—one that offers a distinctive way for the students to relate to the words themselves

**Morah Bev Warshai and Ishai Sussman-Yitzchaki**

and to the many generations that have read these same words before us.

This process begins in third grade when the students learn *trope*—the notation system that is used to guide people as they chant from the Torah. The students learn the names of the various trope markings and a melodic pattern that is associated with each mark. Incorporating hand and arm gestures to correspond with each kind of mark helps the students to remember the name and melody pattern for each of the tropes. By the end of the third grade, they have mastered the

**Ayelet Lasser**

two most common sets of trope phrases that are used when chanting Torah, and they get to demonstrate as much by chanting a verse from the weekly Torah portion for our little congregation. A lot of excitement goes into it as the students bring the words of the Torah to life, elevated to another level.

In fourth grade, the students learn the majority of the other trope markings, again combining melody and gestures, only now they spend even more time applying that knowledge to longer and more complicated verses. It's clear that the motions help the students remember the patterns—another instance of integrated, multi-sensory learning helping them along. At this stage, the students have opportunities to chant from the Torah several times during the year.

The students continue to chant verses from the Torah during fifth grade. By this time, students' pattern-recognition skills make it easy to apply their trope skills to any verse that they are assigned. As fifth graders, they also contribute to the Torah service by working with Rabbi Kim Blumenthal of Beth Israel Congregation on a D'var Torah to present as part at the Torah service.

On Thursdays, then, whether by feeling the weight of the Torah in their arms as they carry it around the room (with its velvety or satin cover close to them), or feeling the weight of the *Yad* in their hand as they chant a verse from the Torah, the students see, sing, hear, and feel the Torah in a new and integrated experience, learning and building memories in a way that will stick with them for a lifetime. That's where the magic happens. ■

# Camp Raanana new leadership

*Rachel Saslove, special to the* WJN

Camp Raanana, the summer day camp program of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, offers opportunities for leadership growth and development every summer and 2017 will be no exception. With a renewed focus on improving and growing Camp Raanana's leadership opportunities, the leadership programs formerly known as the Junior and Senior Counselors-in-training have been re-envisioned to provide campers with a more natural leadership progression through their summers at camp. The newly established Camp Raanana leadership programs will be called *Atid* and *Ozrim*.

*Atid* is Hebrew and means "future" in English, hence, the Atid leadership program is designed as a leadership model which embraces the organic growth and development of middleschool aged campers, and seeks to maximize their impact on the future of Camp Raanana. The Atid leadership program has been designed to guide middle school aged campers to find a balance between the start of their leadership journey and the continuation of their camper experience. Atid is specifically designed for campers entering grades 6-8, and the leadership opportunities the participants will have are designed based on their natural development and age appropriate capabilities.

Participants will experience a team-oriented approach with a focus on guiding them in beginning to find their leadership voice within a group, being both a leader and a follower within their peer cohort, and rudimentary counselor skills (listening skills, activity planning, and care-giving). A day in the life of Atid participants will include rotating through camp activities as a cohort, a period of "Leadership Learning," and time spent with a younger group of campers where they will shadow counselors, assist them, and mentor younger campers.

*Ozrim* is Hebrew and mean "helpers" in English. The Ozrim leadership program will prepare young high school-aged students to become counselors. Established to provide those entering grades nine and ten a larger sense of responsibility and ownership over their camp experience, the Ozrim program will delve deeper into counselor training and leadership development. Ozrim participants will spend part of their day in Hadracha, meaning guidance, and the other half in placements where they will gain direct, hands-on experience working with and caring for campers.

Both leadership programs demonstrate a strong balance between fun and engaging programming, and practical, relevant, and valuable skill building. The participants in both the Atid and Ozrim leadership programs will have a meaningful, fun, and empowering summer. Atid participants are campers and should register for Camp Raanana but at a discounted rate. Ozrim participants must complete a job application process as part of their experience, and will receive a small stipend for their work during the summer. For more information on how to participate in either program, or for general Camp Raanana information, visit camp.jccannarbor.org or contact Rachel Saslove, director of Camp Raanana, at (734) 971-0990 or rachelsaslove@jccannarbor.org. ■

# Coming together over cookies

*Rachael Hoffenblum, special to the* WJN

On Thursday, March 16, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, and Hebrew Day School joined forces to brighten the day of the senior residents from the Glacier Hills community with traditional Purim gifts or mischloach manot, that included decorated cookies. Hebrew Day School's third and fourth grade students joined the adults for a cookie decorating Lunch and Learn program. The students were incredibly creative and decorated cookies with a variety of designs and messages, some related to the Purim holiday. Overall 136 cookies were donated to Glacier Hills.

**Lunch and learn participants enjoyed decorating cookies with HDS students**

**Cookies were shaped in many different designs**

Professionals from both the Federation and the JCC assisted with the planning, including Ayelet Shapiro, Federation's outreach and program coordinator; Denise Bennett, chief financial officer for both organizations; and Rachael Hoffenblum, the Ann Arbor JCC's operations manager and adult program coordinator. Everyone involved believes that this program would make a great annual event for Purim. For more information on the Lunch and Learn program or other adult program opportunities, contact Rachael Hoffenblum, adult program coordinator, at (734) 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. ■

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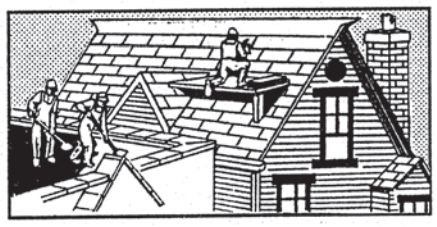

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IN THEATERS MAY 26

# Profiles

## Humanitarian Bob Milstein

*Lisa Carolin, special to the* WJN

Ann Arbor resident Bob Milstein is the consummate volunteer. Ever since he retired from his job as an AT&T project manager 12 years ago, the 72-year-old has been doing all sorts of volunteer work, and recently, he received the Genesis Humanitarian Award.

**Bob Milstein**

Genesis manages the Ann Arbor building that is owned by both Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church, and members of both congregations make up the board that chooses the recipient of the Genesis Humanitarian Award.

Milstein, a member of Temple Beth Emeth, was recognized for his outreach to the community, in particular his work with the Back Door Food Pantry, located separately but near the congregations.

"We want to give dignity to people who come, and we want to help all people be comfortable coming to the Back Door Food Pantry," he said. "The pantry is a good model for interfaith. Everyone is welcome. There's no talk on religion. The focus is on getting food ready and helping patrons."

His volunteering started when Milstein trained at the local Red Cross chapter to help victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 in New Orleans. Milstein helped run the canteen. It was the beginning of his involvement in the Red Cross's Disaster Action Team.

"We take care of the families by offering them food, clothing and a couple nights in a hotel," he explained. "I'd often be called out at 2 a.m."

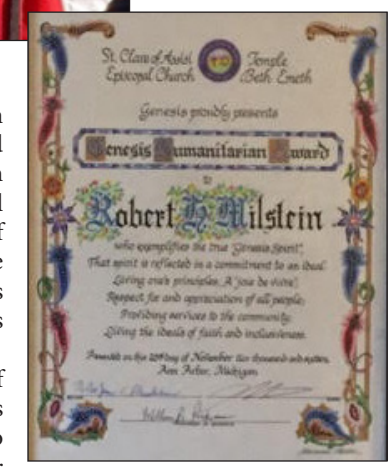
Milstein went on to become Action Team leader, and is now in a position to give direction to the team from home as the on-call coordinator for the local disaster action team. That's after going out on more than 20 disaster relief trips.

"I can provide people hope, and listen to the stories of what happened to them," said Milstein. "It will take time, but they will recover, and we (Red Cross) can provide resources."

Milstein volunteered for the Jewish Federation during Katrina and led a group of rabbinical students. He returned to New Orleans a few months later in December and was cleaning mud out of a synagogue. He was invited to celebrate Hanukah at the local Jewish Community Center with Jews from the area who had left and come back. Menorah kits were given out because so many had lost so much.

His volunteer work has also included Food Gatherers, Jewish Family Services' Resettlement Program, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Neighborhood Senior Services, and Back Door Food Pantry.

Milstein grew up in Chicago, initially on the west side, in a Jewish neighborhood.




**The Genesis Humanitarian Award**

"My parents were not religious though my grandfather was," said Milstein. "I wanted to enroll at the Orthodox Hebrew School because my friends did. When we moved to the north side of Chicago, I went to a conservative temple where I was bar mitzvahed."

He met and married Carol, who grew up in Traverse City and attended the University of Michigan, and was pleased when his job brought them to Ann Arbor. He describes her as, "a Jew by choice." When they saw the building on Packard that offered both a church and temple, they knew it was a good fit for them, and have been involved ever since. They have two grown children, Naomi, who is executive director of the Chicago Freedom School, and Adam, who is a registered nurse at Harper Hospital in Detroit.

"We love it in Ann Arbor," said Milstein. "There's always something to do. Everything is close here, and it's easy to get involved."

As far as all of his volunteer efforts are concerned, Milstein enjoys putting in "a few hours here and a few hours there" every day.

"I would like to encourage people to have the fun that I have," he said. "I live a good life, feel well and feel fortunate. I hope if a disaster befalls me, people will be there to help. ■

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# U-M President Mark Schlissel

*Lisa Carolin, staff writer*

The University of Michigan is celebrating its bicentennial, an historic time to be the university's president. To hear President Mark Schlissel tell it, he has the best job in higher education. The 59-year-old, who is the first physician-scientist to lead the institution, became its 14th president in July 2014.

After spending much of his life on the East Coast and about 12 years on the West Coast, Schlissel said, "I love Ann Arbor. It's the nicest and friendliest place I've ever lived. People have less intense attitudes here. People in the service industry are kind. It's an unbelievably cultural place for a city of its size."

U-M President Mark Schissel

He is in his third year of a five-year appointment, and said the university received a record 57,500 applications last year. Despite U-M's popularity, maintaining its quality isn't easy.

"This is a relentless job," said Schlissel. "All of the issues playing out in society live on campus. I have four kids who are all grown, so for this window of my life, I'm giving this my all."

Some recent issues that have been addressed by U-M students include race relations, police brutality, becoming a sanctuary campus, and sexual assault on campus.

Schlissel is very involved with campus life, and that includes making time to attend both men's and women's basketball games.

He spent the first part of his life in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn, and was the oldest of four children.

"My neighborhood was half Jewish and half Italian," he said. "The synagogue in our community was Orthodox, and I went to a five-day-a-week Hebrew school."

Schlissel became fluent in Hebrew and attended services with his dad on the High Holidays. The family moved to suburban New Jersey when he was starting sixth-grade. They joined a Conservative temple, he completed Hebrew school, and had his bar mitzvah.

"I'm such a serious person that I even stood in for the rabbi on occasion," Schlissel said.

He says that his family's link to Judaism was more cultural than religious. When his dad became president of the congregation, Schlissel saw the political side of life, which he did not care for.

He attended Princeton University where he earned a BA in biochemical sciences in 1979 and says there was not a big Jewish community there at that time.

"I grew more distant from organized Judaism," Schlissel said.

He earned M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he did his residency training in internal medicine and did postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Whitehead Institute.

He began his career as a faculty member in 1991 at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and earned awards and fellowships for both his teaching and research.

In 1999, Schlissel moved to the West Coast to be an associate professor at the University of California-Berkely in the department of Molecular and Cell Biology. He became a full professor three years later and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in immunology and introductory biology. That led to him becoming dean of Biological Sciences in the College of Letters and Sciences from 2008–2011, which Schlissel describes as, "a transition that was a natural part of a career."

In 2011, he became provost at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, the job that preceded his becoming president at U-M.

"I've enjoyed every place I've lived," he said.

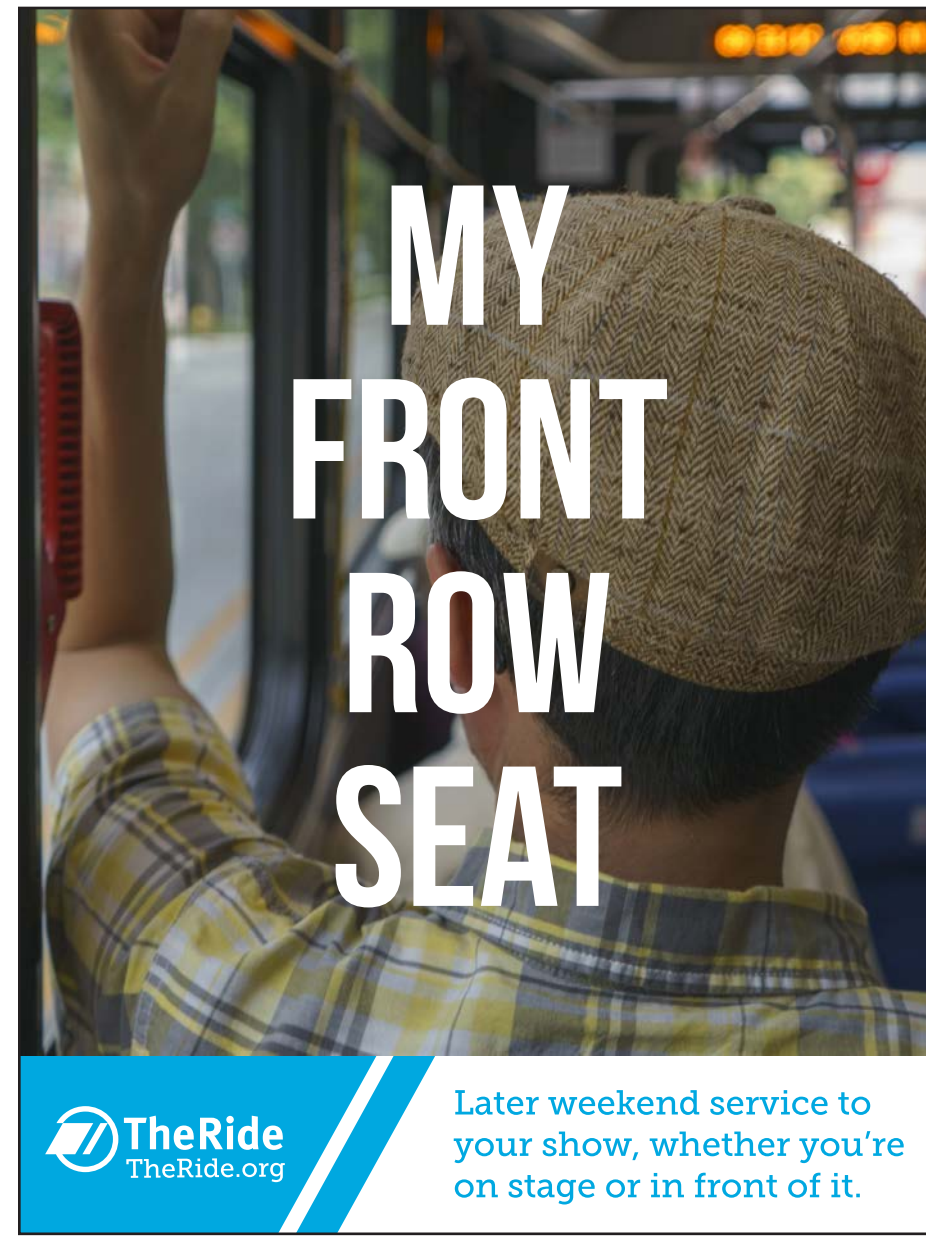
Schlissel is married to Monica Schwebs, an environmental and energy lawyer.

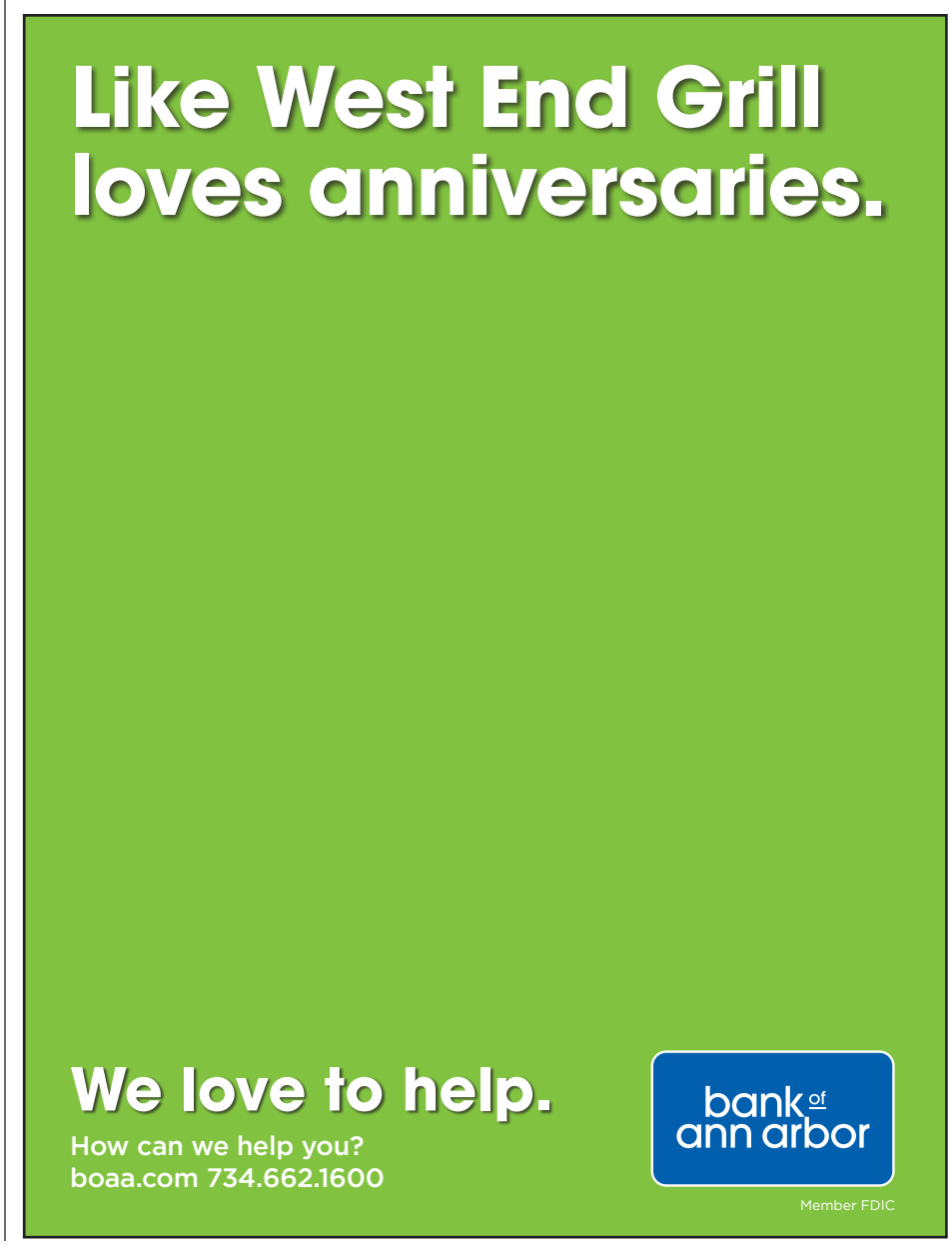
Science continues to be an important part of Schlissel's life, and he has been a member of the American Association of Immunologists since 1992. He was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2013.

Schlissel's research has helped the understanding of genetic factors involved in the production of antibodies as well as how mistakes in that process can cause leukemia and lymphoma.

When he looks ahead, Schlissel says that he might consider starting a research lab here some day. He says that if the regents at U-M think he's done a good job at the end of five years, they may offer him another five years.

Who does Schlissel admire? He calls himself a fan of Jed Bartlett, better known as the character on the television drama *The West Wing* played by actor Martin Sheen in the role of president of the United States. For now, being president of U-M is more than a full time job from Schlissel. ■

# David Abramson remembered

*Rachel Urist, staff writer*

David Abramson, who died unexpectedly on March 23, was a pillar of the local Jewish community. Though he was beloved of many, he was known by few. In March, 1997, he was profiled in this newspaper. His widow, Ellen Abramson, just surprised me by telling me that David kept copies handy. When people asked him about his background, he would whip one out and give it to the enquirer. Many who thought they knew him were amazed to read his story. In the wake of his sudden death, we thought fit to update and reprint the profile.

A few more introductory remarks are in order before telling David's story. In this time of mourning, Ellen is surrounded by family and friends. Family includes the couple's two daughters, Sarah Rimler and Mara Abramson. Sarah and her husband, Rabbi Mendy Rimler, are the parents of Chayala (3) and Eli (1), upon whom their grandfather doted. David and his son-in-law, Mendy, developed an extraordinarily tight bond. David was thrilled that his daughter chose a life of religious observance. The Rimlers help run Chabad House at Arizona State University. In fact, it is telling that at his funeral, David was eulogized by a select few who represent a wide, cross-section of the population—with strong ties to the man. The eulogizers included Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal of Beth Israel Congregation; Esther Goldstein of Ann Arbor's Chabad; and Robert Cooper, David's co-founder and President of the Association for Youth Empowerment (AYE). AYE launched such initiatives as "Bridging 8 Mile" and "Bridging 23." Each of these outreach programs worked to bridge the racial and geographical divides between people in the Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Detroit regions.

Ellen likes to quote her husband who often said: "We can't love our neighbor if we don't know who our neighbor is." She adds: "David was all about bringing people together." AYE provided scholarships for young people to do personal growth programs as well as education. David and his good friend and colleague, Robert, were "the best of friends," says Ellen. They launched "The Robert and David Show: Live and in Color," in which they shared about how they bridged their own racial divide. They loved each other, as brothers. This was clear in Robert's eulogy, when he talked about the love they shared. Among their working colleagues on bridging initiatives was Belinda Dulin, of Washtenaw County's Dispute Resolution Center. According to Ellen, when Belinda saw how the two men operated together, she said, "I never saw whites and blacks communicating and working together as these two did." She was, as Ellen put it, "wowed."

So who was David Abramson?

Born into a pious, Baptist household in 1954, the youngest of the family's first five children, David Abramson did not seem destined for a life dedicated to Judaism. His mother played piano in church and read Bible stories to the children at home. "I had lots of friends in the Bible. Abraham, Jacob, David, Samuel—they were living beings. As a Baptist, I grew up in the Bible," recalls Abramson. But it wasn't an altogether friendly world. "There were two paths: the fiery furnace or streets of gold. There's no Orthodox, Conservative or Reform in the Baptist church. From the time I was a baby I knew I'd burn in hell."

When Abramson was five his father abandoned the family. In order to feed the children, his mother worked several jobs. She was loving and devoted, but often

PHOTO CREDIT: ROSE MASSEY

**David Abramson**

absent. Abramson remembered spending a great deal of time in biker bars during those early years. He was the one on the bar holding the bets. He witnessed stabbings and shootings. He once saw a man clubbed to death with pool cues. His first grade teacher taught him more than reading. "She made sure I came to school," he said. "She'd take me home with her. She had six kids of her own, so one more didn't matter. I became one of the family."

Around that time, he began hearing war stories from soldiers who had served in Europe. It was during that year that Adolph Eichmann was captured. "I remember it vividly. I was five. Eichmann was in the news all the time. Suddenly I realized that Adolph Eichmann was my image of God. He was making the selections, left or right, and I knew I was going to hell. I was a Jew trapped in a Baptist's body."

In 1964, when Abramson was 10, his mother remarried a man with eight children. Conflict ensued, and in 1969 Abramson left home "to raise himself." He came to Ann Arbor where he met his girlfriend. "This was a great place. There were lots of cool things happening. It was the '60s! I was like a kid in a candy store. But he and his girlfriend wanted to marry, so they went to Florida where marriage at age 15 was legal.

They stayed in Florida for less than a year, then returned to Michigan where their daughter, Lorna, was born. Abramson was only 16. He enrolled in Washtenaw Community College where he studied auto mechanics and his interest in education grew. "I hustled [worked many jobs] my way into the University of Michigan. I didn't have a high school transcript, but I met a sociologist who was doing research here on the impact of education on families. I was a great experimental model. My background was clean; nobody in my family had finished high school or gone to college. So I enrolled in LS&A, and graduated in '75. I'd never written a paper in my life. In getting access to college, I got

***My vision of heaven is to be at the family table with lots of love, joy, intimacy and connectedness.***

access to a world I hadn't dreamed about; a world where people had expectations of living past 40."Abramson worked his way through school as an auto mechanic. University life was a challenge. It was different from any Abramson had known. "I had no mechanisms of survival to deal with this new world. As a child, my key survival technique was being smarter than anyone else in the bar. But here it was no longer appropriate to stab someone if they insulted you." The clashing of worlds came during his last year in college, when his best friend was murdered in Detroit. Abramson came unglued. He had no one to turn to. "I thought I was a coward for not killing the guys who wacked my friend. I was thrown out of the dorm on gun charges. I realized I needed external discipline. He graduated from U-M and joined the army.

The army taught him discipline but not balance. "In 1977 I cracked up. I didn't know my name. I had images of being forced to bow down to Adolph Eichmann. I missed my friends from the Bible. I wanted to recapture that feeling of being five years old and being connected with God. I began an ontological search."

His youthful marriage ended after 13 years, and Abramson enrolled in graduate school. (He holds two masters degrees: one in educational leadership, and another in interdisciplinary technology.) He earned his living by teaching "Basic Car Care for Consumers" at Washtenaw Community College. Ellen, his future wife, was fresh out of social work school. She landed a job with hospice, bought her first car, and decided that if her work depended on a working vehicle, she ought to know how to maintain it. She enrolled in the car course at WCC. "David's primary interest was in helping people work their way out of poverty. He believed that to do so you need two things: a good vocational skill and dependable transportation. All sorts of people took his classes. Ellen added: "We had access to lifts, hoists and tool kits. We got actual work done on our cars." When the course ended, David and Ellen became an item. His first trip to Beth Israel Congregation was to attend Ellen's bat mitzvah. "I heard Hebrew sung," said Abramson, "and there was this blinding light. I knew I had to learn the language." He signed up for Hebrew classes at Hillel and in learning Hebrew discovered Jews. "Jews had always fascinated me, but I hadn't known many. It was a revelation to learn that Jews are not necessarily Baptists without Jesus.

Abramson began going to services at Beth Israel every Friday night. He studied. He told Rabbi Kensky, then rabbi at Beth Israel, that he wanted to convert, but Rabbi Kensky deterred him. (This was in keeping with Jewish tradition. Jews do not proselytize.) Finally, after a sleepless night, Abramson walked to Rabbi Kensky's house in a driving rainstorm. He arrived at dawn and knocked on the door. "I really want to do this," he said, and Rabbi Kensky was convinced. The conversion took place in 1984. David and Ellen created their family name, Abramson, from the Hebrew name David was given at his conversion (David ben Avraham).

Abramson became a pillar of the Beth Israel community. In 1991, he helped found the men's club. He often said: "I like to call it the *mensch* club; it doesn't have to be just men." He later helped organize the synagogue's organ donors drives.

"My relationship with Judaism is simple," said Abramson. "I have an unquenchable thirst for being intimately connected with a family. What better environment can there be than the Jewish milieu? My vision of heaven is to be at the family table with lots of love, joy, intimacy and connectedness."

Ellen was happy to share such a vision. She found his family inspirational. "There are few people who call aunt and grandma who have no blood or legal relationship at all." Abramson's stepfather, who died a few years into the marriage, left his wife with his two youngest children. She adopted them. The others, scattered across the country, drifted back. Abramson himself was never sure how to answer questions about sibling numbers. "There are nine of us," Abramson would say. "Or eight. Or eleven. It doesn't matter. The siblings of my adopted siblings are also part of the clan. My mother's very loving."

David, Ellen, and their daughters became a magnet for the rest of the clan. Abramson's mother, who remained in South Carolina, came up to Michigan about twice a year to visit—as did David's eldest daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. (Abramson became a grandfather at the age of 33.) Ellen has long been impressed with her husband's sense of family and responsibility. Extended family members have stayed with them, several for long periods. "We're launching these people," Ellen would say. "I used to hear about this tradition. People did it after the war. It wasn't in my recent experience, but it's part of David's. It's like bringing in immigrants. David's the first generation of college-bound folk. He loves being a leader in his family. And I like that we do this."

Asked what he planned to do next, the indefatigable David Abramson said: "I want to cultivate boredom as an art form. I've had enough excitement for several lifetimes." ■

# Vulfpeck at the Michigan Theater

*San Slomovits, staff writer*

Vulfpeck is thriving. The funk quartet founded in 2011 by former University of Michigan student, Jack Stratton, is coming back to play in front of hometown crowds at the Michigan Theater on Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13. (Stratton's father, Bert Stratton, is well known to WJN readers as the leader of Yiddishe Cup, the klezmer band based in Cleveland, where Jack grew up.) Originally only one show was scheduled for their return, but when that one sold out quickly, a second one was added for the following day.

**Vulfpeck on the *Late Show with Stephen Colbert***

Vulfpeck plays catchy, highly danceable, groove driven music, inspired by classic R & B bands like The Funk Brothers, the house band for most Motown hits of the 1960s. But while Vulfpeck's music harkens back to the '60s, they have a decidedly 21st century approach to their videos, recordings and marketing. The founding members—bassist Joe Dart, keyboardist Woody Goss, former My Dear Disco guitarist Theo Katzman, and keyboardist/drummer Jack Stratton—all attended the U-M School of Music in Ann Arbor. They released their debut EP, the six-track *Mit Peck,* in 2011 and followed it with several EPs of similar length in the next few years. In early 2014 Vulfpeck released *Sleepify*, a silent album on *Spotify*, intending to use the royalties it generated to fund an admission-free tour. The innovative scheme generated $20,000 in royalties, some controversy, and international press. Building on that, the group toured, keeping its promise of admission-free shows in, among other cities, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. In 2015, the band released their first album, *Thrill of the Arts*, which hit the Top 20 of the Billboard R&B Albums chart and resulted in them being invited to play on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Their 2016 release, *The Beautiful Game* charted at number six on Billboard's R&B Albums.

Vulfpeck last played in Ann Arbor in 2015 as part of the summertime downtown Sonic Lunch series. Recently I asked Stratton a few questions via email about this return visit.

**WJN:** First of all, congratulations about the addition of the second show. Were you surprised?

**Stratton:** Yes! The first one sold out with months to go, so we added a second one.

**WJN:** You've been a band for six years but have not toured much, instead focusing on recordings, videos and a strong Internet presence. Plus, each of the four of you has been involved in a number of non-Vulf projects. This fifteen date tour, starting in May in Minneapolis and ending up in California in June, will be your longest yet. Is that a sign of a different direction for the band? Are you all focusing more on Vulfpeck, rather than on other side projects?

**Stratton:** Yes. Vulf has been growing steadily. So as of 2016 it has been my main gig.

**WJN:** Is this tour all venues like the Michigan Theater or are there a variety of different types of venues (dance clubs, bars, etc.)?

**Stratton:** Michigan Theater is the only seated show. Every other show is a club show. I'm excited to play a different type of venue and see how the show translates.

**WJN:** Your previous touring has been mostly by van. Will you be driving or flying this time?

**Stratton:** Flying. Southworst. Or as I like to call it: Southbest.

**WJN:** How has the music of the band been changing? Will you be showcasing a lot of new material, or will you be playing the audience favorites?

**Stratton:** We are trying to write catchier songs. The show will be half favorites and half deep-cuts.

**WJN:** Do you make up sets or do you choose tunes on the fly as the energy of the room dictates?

**Stratton:** We make set-lists before the show. Initially I didn't, but the band begged me to.

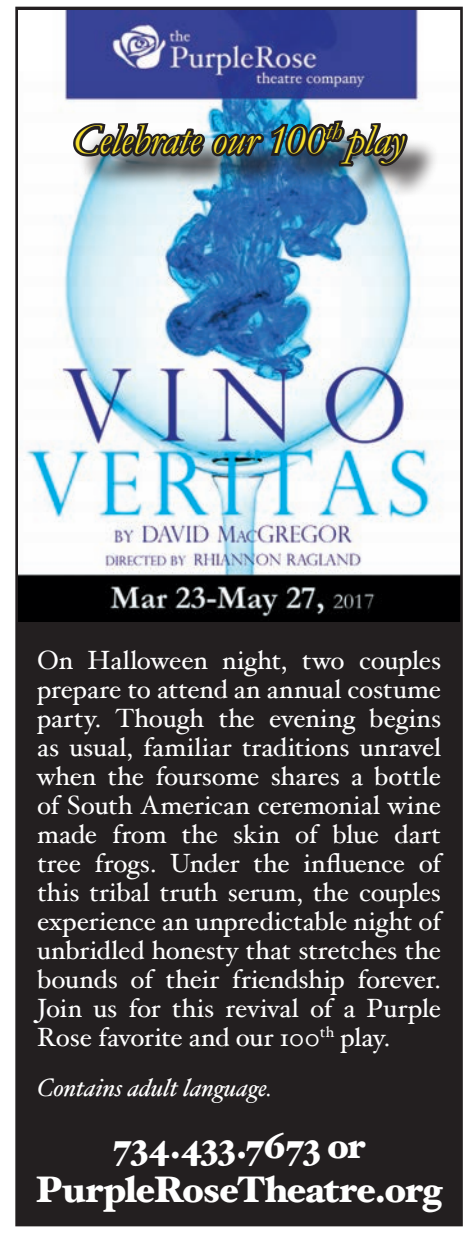
**WJN:** Are you all living in LA, or is the band spread out and you need to plan to find times and places to get together?

**Stratton:** The band is spread out. We come together for the shows and recording sessions. No rehearsals. Actually, we will have one day of rehearsal for this tour, against my will.

**WJN:** What do you see on the horizon?

**Stratton:** I want to continue growing for the next few years and then have a horrific falling out over finances. Just kidding, I would like to grow it and continue to bring value to the musicians who participate. ■

*In addition to the evening shows on May 12 and 13 an afternoon kids' show has been added to the schedule. Call (734) 668-8397 for ticket information.*

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# The holidays, version 2.0

*Mary Bilyeu, staff writer*

The holiday season is here, again!

Wait a minute — that's not for a few months, still, right?

Well, yes and no.

We always think of fall as the time for holidays, with Rosh HaShanah leading into Yom Kippur, which precedes Sukkot and Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. And before you know it, after that we're carving the Thanksgiving turkey and lighting the menorah. It's a whirlwind of highs and lows, celebration and penitence, food and fasting (but, happily, mostly food).

Springtime is also crammed full of holidays, though—occasions for happiness, for sorrow, and for a mix of both.

First, of course, there was Pesach, involving preparations which dwarf all the others' cooking traditions combined. Then, one right after the other — symbolically tied together, as they are — the calendar brings Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzma'ut. Next, Lag BaOmer and Yom Yerushalayim will come, with Shavuot rounding out the month of May.

And food is an essential part of holidays. Even the lack thereof, followed by breaking the fast in community, is integral to Yom Kippur.

Israeli cuisine is, of course, requisite for the two intertwined holidays, Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzma'ut. The former — Israeli Memorial Day — reminds us that the country's very existence, let alone the independence celebrated at the latter, owes a profound debt and depth of gratitude to those who have sacrificed their lives for the nation. While there have been many varied influences upon the country's cooking, it is developing its own uniquely distinctive and delicious style, one that incorporates and celebrates that beautiful patchwork quilt of contributions in tandem with Israel's own natural bounty.

Picnic treats and grilled dishes are often served for Lag BaOmer, given that bonfires and outdoor activities are among the traditions associated with the festive day which comes in the midst of a somber mourning period. And Jerusalem's unique foods — such as the famed sweet and peppery Yerushalmi kugel — are naturally served on Yom Yerushalayim, the day that commemorates reunification of the city.

Finally, Shavuot traditionally brings dairy dishes, as well as ones made with honey. These can be savory temptations or sweet indulgences, to honor Israel as a land flowing with milk and honey that nourishes both body and soul.

In honor of the newness and renewal of spring, the upcoming seasonal occasions deserve some fresh recipes. Perhaps the following ones will become a part of your family's holiday traditions. ■

## Four Cheese Bourekas

"There is no greater marriage than melted cheese and puff pastry," writes Emma Spitzer, a finalist in the 2015 season of BBC's Masterchef. "The cheese boureka is a classic that needs little else to make it special."

Filling:
- 3/4 cup ricotta cheese
- 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 3/4 cup grated sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1 egg
- Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
- Pinch of ground white pepper
- 2 tablespoons za'atar, optional

Pastry:
- 1 sheet of ready-rolled puff pastry
- Flour, for dusting
- Beaten egg, to glaze
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon nigella seeds

Preheat the oven to 400° and line 2 baking sheets with non-stick parchment paper.

Mix all the filling ingredients together in a bowl.

Unroll the sheet of pastry on a lightly floured work surface and roll out to a further 1 inch all around. Cut twelve 3-1/2 inch squares from the pastry. Seal the pastry trimmings in plastic wrap and place in the fridge for rerolling to make more squares later.

Place a heaping tablespoonful of the filling in the center of each square, then brush beaten egg around the border with a pastry brush and fold over to make a triangle. Seal the triangles by pressing down on the edges with the tines of a fork and, at the same time, making a nice pattern. Place on the lined pans. Re-roll and repeat with the chilled pastry trimmings.

Brush each of the triangles liberally with beaten egg and sprinkle with the sesame and nigella seeds.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until puffed up and golden. Enjoy hot or cold.

Yield: 15 bourekas

*Source: Adapted from Emma Spitzer,* Fress: Bold Flavors from a Jewish Kitchen

## Israeli White Chocolate Cheesecake

"You wouldn't necessarily see cheesecake as a spiritual thing, that is, unless you are Jewish," writes Emma Spitzer. "The famous New York-style baked cheesecake may be popular among many cheesecake fans, but the lesser-known Israeli version is something spectacular."

- 7 ounces Petit Beurre biscuits (no substitutes)
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- 5 1/2 ounces white chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 cup cream cheese
- 1 cup full-fat crème fraîche

To prepare the crust, add the biscuits to a food processor and blitz to crumbs, then mix with the melted butter. Press two-thirds of the mixture into a 9-inch square baking pan, flattening it out to form an even layer. Place the crust in the freezer for 15 minutes until it is set.

Meanwhile, prepare the filling. Put the white chocolate in a glass bowl and either set over a saucepan of simmering water, ensuring that the base of the bowl doesn't touch the water, or heat in the microwave in 30-second bursts until melted. Remove the bowl from the pan and let cool slightly.

While the chocolate is melting and cooling, beat the softened butter, sugar, whole egg, and egg yolk together in an electric stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until fluffy (or in a bowl with a wooden spoon and develop some muscle at the same time); this will take around 10 minutes.

Beat the cream cheese and crème fraîche together in a bowl, then stir in the melted white chocolate. Add to the butter and sugar mixture, then carefully fold all the ingredients together.

Spread the mixture evenly over the crust and top with the reserved biscuit crumbs. Let set in the fridge for a minimum of 3 hours, but 24 hours is preferable.

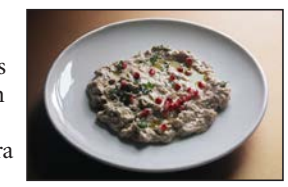
Yield: 10 to 12 slices

*Source: Adapted from Emma Spitzer,* Fress: Bold Flavors from a Jewish Kitchen

## Burned Eggplant with Tahini and Pomegranate

"You can think of this as a deconstructed Baba Ganoush," write Layo Paskin and Tomer Amedi. Their restaurant, The Palomar, is in London and opened to great acclaim in 2014.

- 2 eggplant
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus an extra drizzle to garnish
- 4 tablespoons tahini
- 4 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
- Handful of chopped fresh cilantro



Prick the eggplant in several places with the tip of a sharp knife so that they won't explode in your face and make a mess in the kitchen. Char the skin of the eggplant on all sides over an open flame on the burner or hot charcoal on a barbecue, turning every 5 to 6 minutes — the skin needs to harden up and get a bit crispy. Alternately, set your grill to the highest setting and roast the eggplant in the closest position to the heat source, turning in the same way.

Leave the eggplant until cool enough to handle, then peel.

Arrange the burned eggplant on a serving plate, then season to taste with salt and pepper and dress with the lemon juice and olive oil.

Drizzle the tahini on top, sprinkle with the pomegranate seeds and the chopped cilantro, and drizzle with a little more olive oil.

Yield: Serves 4 as a mezze

*Source: Adapted from* The Palomar Cookbook: Modern Israeli Cuisine

## Orange Blossom Ice Cream

"You don't need an ice cream machine at home to make great ice cream," write Layo Paskin and Tomer Amedi. "This recipe really feels like cheating, as it literally takes no more than 15 minutes to make (but then a few good hours of staring in anticipation at the freezer door until it's ready)."

- 1 3/4 cups condensed milk
- 1 tablespoon orange blossom water
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 1/4 cups whipping cream

Mix the condensed milk, orange blossom water, and oil together in a mixing bowl, using a whisk.

In a separate bowl, whip the cream to soft peaks, then gently fold the cream into the condensed milk mixture.

Transfer the mixture to a lidded freezer-proof container and leave in the freezer for at least 6 hours or overnight. That's it! Easy!

Yield: 8 servings

*Source: Adapted from* The Palomar Cookbook: Modern Israeli Cuisine

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artwork by danhackett.com

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Sunday, May 14

**FATHER'S DAY DINNER**
Saturday, June 17

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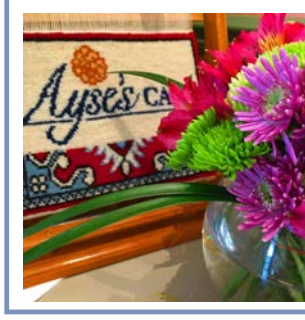


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WestsideArtHop.com

or start at 700 Mount Vernon Ave

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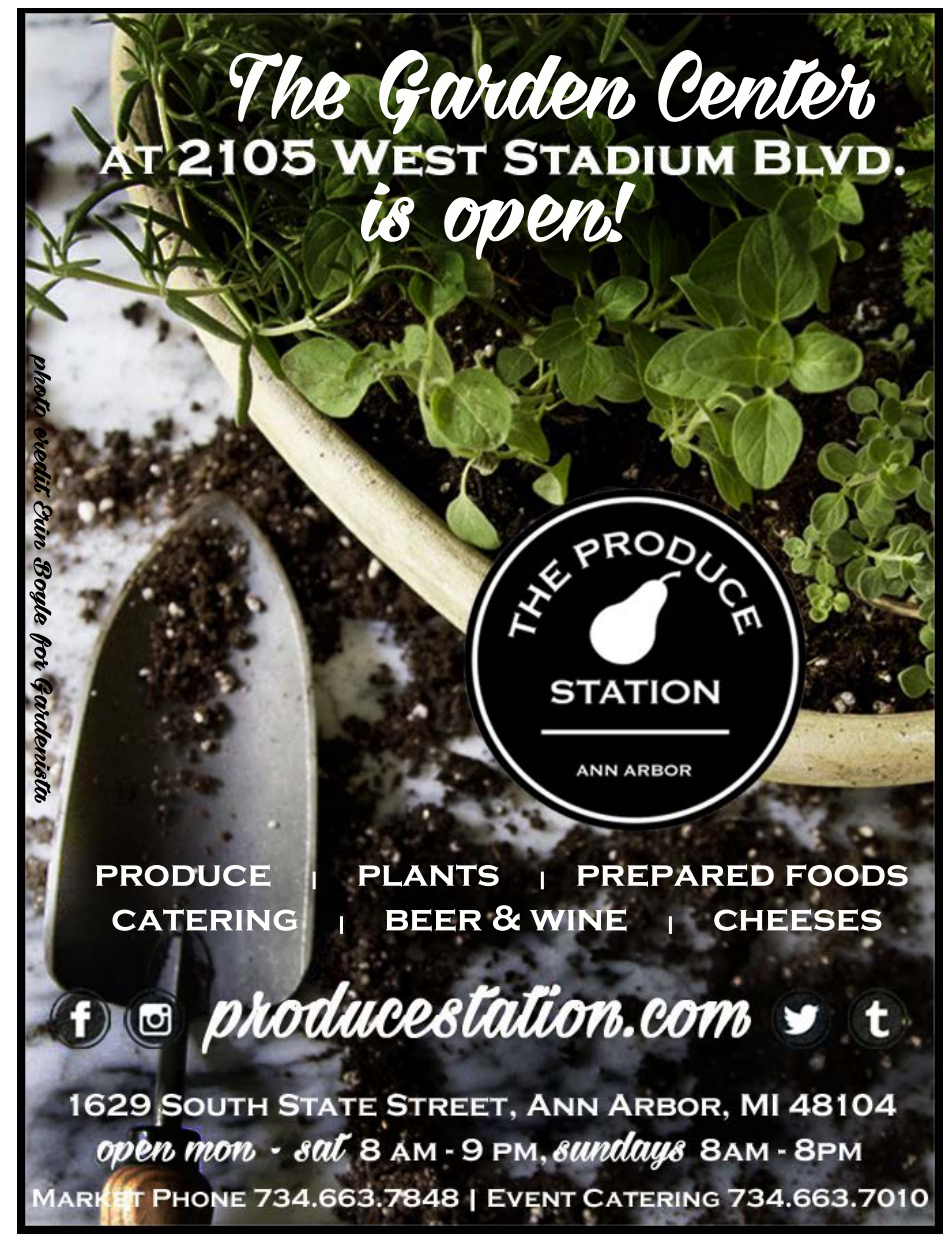

# Calendar

## May 2017

### *Monday 1*

Yom Haatzmaut Film Showing: JCC and JFS. Showing of *Atomic Falafel* in commemoration of Yom Haatzmaut. Register in advance at bit.ly/2oReA1M. Kosher popcorn and snacks available for purchase. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

### *Tuesday 2*

KidZone Vacation Day: JCC. Vacation Days provide fun and adventure for children K-5 when Ann Arbor Public Schools and Hebrew Day School have scheduled closures. Children enjoy computers, games, reading time, arts and crafts time, sports, and a kid-friendly movie. Pre and post care available. For more information (including pricing details) or to register, view www.jccannarbor.org or contact Tamara at (734) 971-0990 or by email at tamara-lewis@jccannarbor.org. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Survival of a Nation: Chabad. JLI Course. Commemorating 50 years since the Six Day War, this course invites participants to experience a captivating account of what at the time was considered by many to be the most improbably and astonishing victory in all of military history. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

*Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group): Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome for conversation in mameloshn, which translates to "mother tongue." For information, email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5:30 p.m.

Hand in Hand Schools in Israel: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study of the text with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

### *Wednesday 3*

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Mahj: TBE. Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

### *Thursday 4*

Prayerful Reflection: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m.

Development Committee Meeting: TBE. 10:15–11:15 a.m.

Lunch and Learn: JCC. Learn about Elvisfest, a weekend-long festival in Ypsilanti celebrating the life and music of Elvis Presley. Includes a stage with rotating Elvis impersonators, a candlelight vigil for Elvis, and a fundraiser for Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels, among other events. Learn about this unique festival with a presentation by Mary Decker, festival director. Register at bit.ly/2oRgxex. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1:30–2:15 p.m.

Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival: JCC. 16th annual Jewish Film Festival runs May 4–11. All films chosen by Ann Arbor Jewish Film festival Committee in conjunction with the Michigan Theater. Genres include several documentaries and true stories. Times vary. For schedule, check film.jccannarbor.org/. For more information, contact karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org or by phone at (734) 971-0990. *May 4–11.*

R & R Theater Event: TBE. Offsite. 6–10 p.m.

"Confessions of a Jewish Film Lover:" JCC. Presented by Elliot Wilhelm, curator for the Detroit Institute of Arts–Detroit Film Festival and host of WTVS Detroit Public Television's Film Festival program. Wilhelm will speak about his own history with film and highlight the McCarthy era and its impact on "Jewish Hollywood" and beyond. $10/person. Light refreshments. RSVP at film.jccannarbor.org/schedule/confessions-of-a-jewish-film-lover-by-elliot-wilhelm/. 7–8:30 p.m.

Nachamu–Shiva Minyan Leader Training: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study from the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

### *Friday 5*

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shabbat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service/Birthday Blessings from 7:30–9 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. All are invited to join the JCS in welcoming Shabbat with songs, secular readings, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Dinner will follow the short Shabbat observance at the JCC. Children are welcome. Dinner free for JCS members; non-members $10/person; $25/family. Register online www.jewishculturalsociety.org/observances/shabbat/ 6:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

### *Saturday 6*

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

6th Grade Shabbat Morning With the Rabbis: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah Service: TBE. Lindsay Orringer. 10–11:30 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

### *Sunday 7*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Mitzvah Day: TBE. Offsite. 1–10 p.m.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

B'nai Mitzvah Committee Meeting: TBE. 7:45–9:15 p.m.

## Monday 8

WTBE "The Historical Novel:" TBE. 12:30–2 p.m.

"Remnants: A One Man Play of Holocaust Survivors:" Ann Arbor District Library. Henry Greenspan's award-winning play, *Remnants,* will be performed by the author at the Ann Arbor District Library's Multi-Purpose Room, Downtown Branch, 343 South Fifth Avenue. The play is based on Greenspan's forty years of deepening conversation with a small group of Holocaust survivors. A discussion between the playwright and audience will follow the performance. For information, contact Tim Grimes, events manager, Ann Arbor District Library, at (734) 327-8301. 7–8:30 p.m.

## Tuesday 9

Survival of a Nation: Chabad. JLI Course. See first Tuesday of month for details. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

*Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group). *See first Tuesday of month.*

Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: TBE Brotherhood. 7:15–8:45 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

## Wednesday 10

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Keshet: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Pulpit Committee Meeting: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Shavuos Celebration: Chabad. Evening services at 8:45 p.m., followed by festive meal and all night learning.

## Thursday 11

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1:30–2:15 p.m.

WTBE Fiber Arts Group: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Thursday of month for details. 8 p.m. Tuesdays .

## Friday 12

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat, 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shabbat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together, 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner, 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service with special guest Dan Nichols from 7:30–9 p.m.

## Saturday 13

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m.

Second Saturday Shabbat: AARC. Participative community service integrates traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary English readings, including Torah service and discussion. At the JCC. 10–noon.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

God in Secular Music: TBE. Presented by Dan Nichols. 1–2 p.m.

Concert: TBE. Dan Nichols. 6–9 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 14

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Lag B'Omer Picnic: Chabad. Picnic dinner of BBQ hot dogs, salads and drinks. Fun activities, special program and prizes. Bandemer Park. Time TBD.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

## Monday 15

Group Supported Spiritual Exploration: TBE. 6:10–7:40 p.m.

Social Action Committee Meeting: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Mizmoret Rehearsal: TBE. 8–9:30 p.m.

## Tuesday 16

Survival of a Nation: Chabad. JLI Course. See first Tuesday of month for details. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

*Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group). *See first Tuesday of month.*

Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5:30 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

WTBE Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

## Wednesday 17

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Mahj: TBE. Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

End of Year Dinner: BIC BIRS. 5:30 p.m.

Keshet: TBE. 6–8:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: BIC. 8 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

## Thursday 18

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: JCC. "Finding Happiness at Any Age," presented by clinical social worker Barry Schumer, LMSW. Schumer, with over 20 years experience specializing in issues ranging from ADHD to trauma, will discuss the different developmental stages in life and how they inform the differences in level of life satisfaction we may be seeking. RSVP requested at http://bit.ly/2oaiZsG. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1:30–2:15 p.m.

Yin Embodied Meditation: TBE. 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Membership Committee Meeting: TBE. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Tuesday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

## Friday 19

KidZone Vacation Day: JCC. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. *See May 2.*

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shabbat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. AARTY Spring Shul-In at 7 p.m. Shabbat Service/Brotherhood Shabbat from 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

## Saturday 20

AARTY Spring Shul-In: TBE. 8 a.m.

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 21

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Legacy Donor Event: TBE. 10:30–Noon.

Celebrate Israel Family Festival: JCC and JFS. Celebrate Israel's birthday with fun for the whole family. Petting zoo, mini obstacle course, live music, Israel dancing, and more. $5/individuals; $10/household. Register at http://bit.ly/2oaxlsP. 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

WTBE Trinkets and Treasures Sale: TBE. 2 p.m.

Chaverim B'Shirim Spring Concert: The Music of Sondheim: JCC. Community volunteer choir, led by Marilyn Krimm, performs various Sondheim pieces. Refreshments following performance. RSVP by phone at (734) 971-0990. 3–5 p.m.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

B'nai Mitzvah Committee Meeting: TBE. 7:45–9:15 p.m.

## Monday 22

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

## Tuesday 23

Survival of a Nation: Chabad. JLI Course. See first Tuesday of month for details. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

*Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group). *See first Tuesday of month.*

Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5:30 p.m.

Mizmoret Rehearsal: TBE 7:30–9 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

## Wednesday 24

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Keshet: TBE. 6–8:30 p.m.

Genesis Board Meeting: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

## Thursday 25

Lunch and Learn: JCC. Bi-monthly visit of dogs from TheraPaws, which offers canine-assisted therapy dogs to schools, hospitals, and other sites throughout Washtenaw County. For more information or to RSVP, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990. 1–2 p.m.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE. 1:30–2:15 p.m.

Guys Night Out: TBE Brotherhood. Gourmet Garden Restaurant. 6–7:30 p.m.

WTBE Fiber Arts Group: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Tuesday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

## Friday 26

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Fourth Friday Shabbat Services and Potluck: AARC. Kabbalat Shabbat services open to all community members. Led by Rabbi Alana Alpert. Pizza nosh for children and childcare provided during services from 6:15–8 p.m. Reservations requested for pizza and childcare. For information, phone (734) 445-1910 or email info@aarecon.org. At the JCC. 6:30–8 p.m.

Shabbat Achat Dinner: TBE. 6–6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service–Shabbat Achat: TBE. 6:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

## Saturday 27

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

B'nai Mitzvah Service: TBE. Samuel Alpern and Samuel Jane. 10–11:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Mini Minyan: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Kiddush: TBE. 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 28

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 6:15–7:45 p.m.

## Tuesday 30

Survival of a Nation: Chabad. JLI Course. See first Tuesday of month for details. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: BIC. Time TBD.

*Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group). *See first Tuesday of month.*

Yin Embodied Jewish Meditation: TBE. 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Shavuot Study Service: TBE. 8–10 p.m.

Shavuot Maariv: BIC. 9:30 p.m.

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## Wednesday 31

Shavuos Celebration: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Children invited to hear the Ten Commandments, with an ice cream party followed by a festive dairy meal for all. Afternoon and evening services at 7 p.m.

Shavuot Yizkor Service and Luncheon: TBE. 11 a.m.–1 p.m.Thursday, June 1Shavuos Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m.,Yizkormemorialservicesat11a.m.,and afternoon and evening services at 8:45 p.m.

### Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time. Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candlelighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

### Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Morning services held the second Saturday of each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon integrating traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary readings including Torah service and discussion. A morning of songs and text study takes place the first Saturday of each month. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown. Call 995-3276 for Home Hospitality and Meals for Shabbat and Jewish Holidays.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

### Frequently listed phone numbers and addresses of organizations:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

### Shabbat Candlelighting

| | |
|---|---|
| May 4 | 8:18 p.m. |
| May 11 | 8:25 p.m. |
| May 18 | 8:32 p.m. |
| May 25 | 8:39 p.m. |

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# Vitals

### *Mazel tov*

Lindsay Orringer on her bat mitzvah, May 6.
Adam Singer on his bar mitzvah, May 6.
Solomon Bernstein on his bar mitzvah, May 13.
Samuel Alpern on his bar mitzvah, May 27.
Samuel Jane on his bar mitzvah, May 27.
David and Karyn Schoem on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Serafina Schoem-Vainner, daughter of Adina Schoem and Joe Vainner.
Barry and Susan Gross on the birth of their granddaughter, Tess Tauman Gallagher, daughter of Lauren and Noah Gallagher.
Inessa and Michael Gankin on the birth of their grandson, Jacob Anthony Vodopyanov, March 14.
Lori and Glenn Taylor on the birth of their granddaughter, and to Eva Taylor on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Emilia Simone Taylor, March 9.
Janice and Peter Tainsh on the marriage of their daughter, Katherine, to Joseph Garcia, March 31.

### *Condolences*

Roger Lauer on the death of his mother, Elaine Joyce Lauer, March 11.
Jodi Wallo on the death of her great aunt, Mary Spiegel, March 11.
Haran Rashes on the death of his mother, Elaine Rosen Rashes, March 12.
Ellen Abramson on the death of her husband, David Abramson, March 23.
Denise Garden on the death of her father, Rabbi Hersh Garden, March 28.
Don Levitt on the death of his mother, Shirley Nell Levitt, March 31.
John Fink on the death of his father, Howard Fink, April 4.

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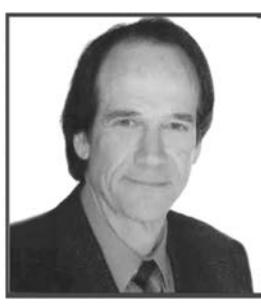

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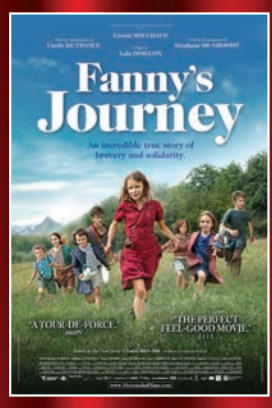
# 16TH ANNUAL ANN ARBOR JEWISH Film Festival

## SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 – THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

*Screenings and events will take place at the Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty, unless otherwise noted.*



### SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017

*All events take place at the Rackham Amphitheater, 4th floor of the University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies, 915 E. Washington Street.*

**3:30PM – Fanny's Journey** (2016, Drama, French w. Eng. subtitles, 94 min)

**5:15PM – Sponsor Dinner @ Rackham Assembly Hall** (4th Floor)

**6:45PM – Fanny's Journey** (2016, Drama, French w. Eng. subtitles, 94 min)

### MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

**2:00PM – Mamele** (1938, Comedy/Musical, Yiddish w. Eng. subtitles 103 min)

**5:00 PM – Bagels Over Berlin** (2016, Documentary, Eng., 100 min)

**8:00 PM – Last Band in Lebanon** (2016, Comedy, Hebrew w. Eng. subtitles, 89 min)

### TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017

**2:00PM – AKA Nadia** (2015, Drama, Hebrew w. Eng. subtitles, 115 min)

**5:00PM – Who's Gonna Love Me Now?** (2016, Documentary, Hebrew w. Eng. subtitles, 85 min)

**8:00PM – Last Laugh** (2016, Documentary, Eng., 88 min)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017

**2:00PM – The Settlers** (2016, Documentary, Hebrew w. subtitles, 110 min)

**5:00PM – Ben-Gurion Epilogue** (2016, Documentary, Hebrew/French w. Eng. subtitles, 55 min)

**8:00PM – The People vs Fritz Bauer** (2015, Biography/Drama, German/Yiddish/Spanish w. Eng. subtitles, 105 min)

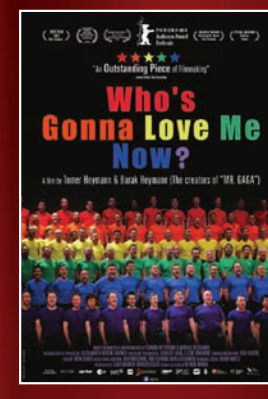
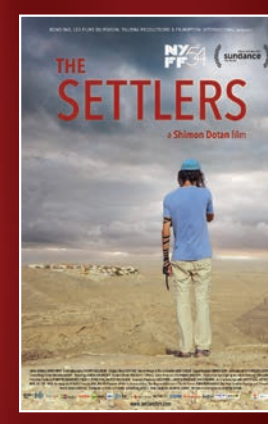
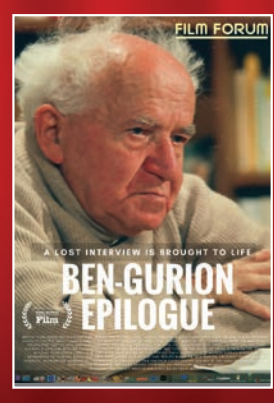
### THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

**2:00PM – Germans & Jews** (2016, Documentary, German/Eng./Hebrew w. Eng. subtitles, 76min)

**5:00PM – Shorts Program**

**Hannah's Holy Communion** (2012, Comedy, Eng., 13 min)
**A Reuben by Any Other Name** (2010, Comedy, Eng., 5 min)
**Women in Sink** (2015, Documentary/Drama, 36 min)
**Bacon & God's Wrath** (2015, Documentary/Animation, Eng., 8 min)
**Joe's Violin** (2016, Documentary, Eng., 24 min)

**8:00PM – Women's Balcony** (2016, Comedy/Drama, Hebrew w. Eng. subtitles, 96 min)

*Tickets $10 each and are not film specific. Student tickets are $5 each with a valid student I.D. A "six pack" of tickets at the discounted rate of $50 is available by advance purchase only.*

**Full schedule and information available at film.jccannarbor.org**